

TODAY  
**10P**

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TODAY  
**10P**

Harman withdraws from interview

## Benefit cuts delay could buy off rebels

By Andrew Pierce and James Landale

A CUT in lone parents' benefits could be put off until next autumn as ministers seek to defuse the biggest backbench revolt since Labour returned to power.

More than 120 MPs are demanding that the cut be delayed for at least a year, and many have threatened to vote against the Bill that would reduce some parents' benefits by up to £11 a week from April. A six-month delay could appease many of those rebels, since the benefit change would then coincide with new welfare-to-work measures — including more childcare clubs — announced by Gordon Brown last week to help single parents back to work.

Clive Soley, the Parliamentary Labour Party chairman, said that Mr Brown had answered some MPs' concerns, but the Government still had to do more to convince all of his colleagues. "Some people are still not happy," he said.

And the scale of the problem for the Government was further underlined when Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, withdrew from a BBC interview amid reports that Labour spin-doctors feared she might inflame the situation.

If a compromise is not reached, Labour whips will try to outflank the rebels by giving them leave from parliamentary duties to spend time in their constituencies during the crucial vote. But the tactic dismayed opponents



"Oh look, it's a single mother at the bottom of the tree"

Labour announced before the election that they would stick to Conservative spending plans. Labour knew that this would mean making cuts to lone parents' benefits.

Yet both Tony Blair and Harriet Harman publicly stated in the weeks running up to the election that they would not make cuts to lone parents' benefits. The decision to withdraw Harriet Harman from the BBC interview means that her credibility is in tatters.

Nor did Labour rebels show any sign of easing the pressure, with at least one parliamentary aide to a Cabinet minister considering abstaining — which would mean having to resign.

Audrey Wise, the Preston MP, who is one of the leading campaigners for lone parents, said: "The problem we have is that the Government are carrying out a Tory policy — the Peter Lilley Memorial Bill." And the mother and son team Ann and John Cryer also joined forces against the Government. Mrs Cryer said: "We ought to stand together on this and we ought to send a message to women outside, those who are going to be on the receiving end, that we're on their side."

But Alistair Darling, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, defended the Government's handling of the issue, saying it had to put the nation's finances on a stable footing.

Letters, page 23



Michael Dobbs, author of the *House of Cards* political trilogy, at his Dorset farmhouse which he is having to sell because of financial difficulties. Page 3

## Health alert after eyes of CJD victim are transplanted

By Mark Henderson

HEALTH officials launched an urgent inquiry into transplant procedures yesterday after it emerged that three patients had received tissue from the eyes of a Scottish woman with Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human form of mad cow disease. Screening guidelines may now be changed.

The corneas and sclera of Marion Hamilton, who died of lung cancer in February, were cleared for transplant despite a post-mortem examination which showed she had CJD. The results were not passed to the United Kingdom Transplant Support Service, which arranged for three patients — two men and a woman in her 80s — to receive Mrs Hamilton's eye tissue. It is not yet clear whether the results were available when the operations took place.

The hospital which carried out the post-mortem, Stirling Royal Infirmary, is to hold its own inquiry.

Organs and tissues for transplant are not routinely tested for CJD because the disease is so rare, though they are screened for other viruses and bacteria. Organs such as hearts and livers cannot be tested for the disease as they must be transplanted within six hours of death and the CJD test takes months. Corneas can be tested as they can be kept for two months before transplant. Experts believe CJD can be transmitted through transplants.

Sarah Galbraith, the Scottish Office Health Minister, said his department would investigate how the Stirling incident took place and ways of improving checks on donated organs. "It is important when we explore the cause of death that we consider what possible

concurrent diseases ... are there. We will try and tighten up these procedures."

The Department of Health will consider a review of transplant procedures nationwide when the inquiry has established what happened in Stirling.

Mrs Hamilton, 53, who had three daughters and was separated from her husband, had not been diagnosed with CJD before her death. One of her daughters said she had been behaving erratically in the weeks before she died. She was said to have been staggering and falling over, and had become a "senile old lady" in her early 50s.

Mrs Hamilton was cared for at Strathcarron Hospice in Stirlingshire after being diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer. Before her death she signed a donor registration form allowing for her eyes, which were not affected by the cancer, to be used for transplants. None of her other organs was donated.

A spokesman for the United Kingdom Transplant Support Service said it was satisfied the Stirling incident was a one-off and welcomed the Scottish Office's swift move to investigate it. "We are sure the transplant was carried out in good faith, but there are always lessons to be learned when there is such a serious mix-up."

More than 6,000 cornea transplants take place every year, and this was the first case of CJD contamination the service had seen, she said.

Stirling Royal Infirmary is part of the national transplant network, under which available organs and tissues are matched with patients by computer and sent to hospitals for immediate surgery.

### Helicopter rescues crew in Channel

THE CREW of a Cypriot-registered cargo ship abandoned her in the English Channel yesterday after she began to capsize in heavy seas 15 miles off Cherbourg, apparently because the freight had shifted.

After broadcasting a Mayday call the foreign crew and Italian master of the *Rosa* took to lifeboats. A British helicopter helped to winch 22 of them from lifeboats to a nearby merchant ship. Five others made their way ashore in a lifeboat.

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## Lord Chancellor's strategy to end Whitehall feuding

By Frances Gibb, legal correspondent

THE Lord Chancellor has proposed a new form of collective government in which he signals an end to Whitehall "turf wars" and damaging spending battles between ministers' departments.

Lord Irvine of Lairg's proposal for policy-making under Labour — outlined to *The Times* — envisages a change in Whitehall culture in which officials fight to protect their departments at the expense of others. It also includes a key role for own post as chief adviser to the Prime Minister, returning to the function of the Lord Chancellor under the Crown centuries ago.

Signs that some ministers might resist a powerful role for the Lord Chancellor emerged yesterday when Lord Irvine was accused of meddling with army discipline. He had given a warning that the code might be in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Lord Irvine, a close friend and adviser to Tony Blair, said he wanted an end to squabbling in which civil servants

see themselves as loyal to their departments. "I hope to see a decline in the practice of officials giving ministers briefs which include information marked 'not to be disclosed' to Cabinet colleagues because the information is damaging to the individual department's cause," he said.

He also wants ministers to stop blindly defending their own officials. Instead they should evaluate critically the officials' advice, he said.

Of his own position, Lord



Lord Irvine: key role

Irvine said he could compare himself with Thomas Wolsey who, as Lord Chancellor to Henry VIII, had an "important wide-ranging role, encompassing politics, religion, the economy and even military affairs".

Like Wolsey, Lord Irvine said, he was chairman of a "star chamber", a Cabinet Committee in charge of Queen's speeches and future legislation. The function was "entirely appropriate" for the Lord Chancellor because he had no other political ambitions.

Lord Irvine believes no other Lord Chancellor since the war has fulfilled this role, one which exposed him to "fear and hatred in equal measure". He conceded that his relationship with Mr Blair, a former pupil who he took in as a young barrister to chambers, is closer than any post-war Lord Chancellor has had with the Prime Minister.

However, Lord Irvine said Continued on page 2, col 7

Leading article, page 23

## Clarke would aid Blair on EMU

By Andrew Pierce, political correspondent

KENNETH CLARKE is prepared to share a platform with Tony Blair in a referendum campaign seeking support for British membership of a European single currency.

In a move that will trigger more turmoil in the Conservative Party over Europe, the former Chancellor has told friends that he agreed with the conclusion of the Government and that if the conditions were right for Britain to join, he would not hesitate to stand alongside the Prime Minister and other Labour ministers in support of a cause he has held dear all his life.

Mr Clarke is privately despairing of William Hague's insistence that the Tories will oppose the single currency at the next election come what may. His readiness to line up with Labour will mean that the divisions that afflicted John Major at the last election are certain to dog Mr Hague at the next.

Mr Clarke believes that Mr Hague has lurched to the right to counter the threat of a political comeback by Michael

Portillo whom the Tory leader regards as the "king across the water". The former Defence Secretary will return to the front line of Conservative politics in the new year with a speaking tour of universities and colleges to try to revive the Tory vote. The tour was initiated by Mr Portillo, not by Conservative Central Office.

As Mr Hague struggles to shake off the worst opinion poll ratings for a Tory leader in recent memory Mr Clarke has confided to his supporters that he believes the continuing internal divisions over Europe could relegate the Tories to third place at the next election.

He believes Euro-scepticism will be dead within 20 years, but fears that the Tory Party will be buried alongside it unless the internal warfare is halted. Gordon Brown has ruled out a government decision to join a single currency this side of the next election, although there are clear indications that if the single

Continued on page 2, col 1

Peter Riddell, page 22

## Germans give thumbs up to British roadworks

By Arthur Lentley

LEGIONS of drivers sitting in traffic jams drumming their fingers impatiently on steering wheels will gain little consolation from the news, but British roadworks have been given the German seal of approval. For pure efficiency, clarity and courtesy to motorists, our system of roadworks design has been praised as "brilliant" by German and Austrian motoring experts visiting England.

Thomas Wank, from the German motoring organisation OAMTC, and Johannes Kurrer, his co-driver, have just ended a four-day tour of England's roads as part of a trans-European study of road safety. Their conclusion is that Britain's repair system sets it apart from other countries they have visited.

"I think your roadworks are brilliant," Herr Wank said. "They are very clearly marked. You are told four miles away that you are approaching road-

works, and you are warned to slow down. There is also a telephone number to ring if you want to complain, and there are signs apologising for delays. That does not happen in other countries, and I think your roadworks are very clear and visible."

He is even prepared to base his matrimonial plans on the quality of the roadworks he encountered in Britain. "I would especially like to marry the daughter of the man who makes your

traffic cones," he said. During the road tour, scores of highways were examined as part of the most exhaustive study of road signs and road planning ever carried out across Europe. However, apart from the excellence of Britain's many roadworks, the abiding memory of England's roads for the team was aggressive driving. This aggression and acceleration at roundabouts were the main dangers encountered by members of the team during their British visit.

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# Minister faces questions on 'tax haven'



Geoffrey Robinson calls for a statement

THE millionaire government minister, Geoffrey Robinson, will today face Tory demands for a detailed Commons statement on his business affairs after it emerged that he has a multimillion-pound off-shore trust.

Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, accused Labour of "breath-taking hypocrisy" for demanding an end to tax havens for millionaires while allowing one of its ministers to benefit from them.

Mr Robinson, the Paymaster General and former chief executive of Jaguar Cars, issued a statement over the weekend revealing that he was a discretionary beneficiary of a £12 million trust in Guernsey. The

Tories accuse Government of hypocrisy over off-shore trust, writes James Landale

statement, issued to counter reports in a Sunday newspaper, said that the Orion Trust was set up by a family friend, Madame Joska Bourgeois, a Belgian national who lived in Switzerland. Mrs Bourgeois, who died in 1994, was a wealthy importer of Jaguar cars.

It is understood that Mr Robinson, MP for Coventry North West, has received no benefit from the trust since he became a minister shortly after the general election in May. Mr Robinson, who last summer entertained Tony Blair at his luxurious Tuscan villa, categorically

denied reports that he had avoided paying tax. Because of Mrs Bourgeois's nationality and residence, "there was no, nor could there have been, any UK tax avoidance," he said.

He added: "Moreover, at no time have I transferred capital or other assets into the Orion Trust for tax or any other purpose."

Mr Robinson also revealed that since the election he had put most of his business assets, including shares worth £18 million in his engineering firm TransTec - in a blind trust.

Mr Robinson, who owns the left of centre New Statesman magazine, said he declared his beneficial interests in line with the Cabinet Office Ministerial Code and they were placed in a blind trust on May 7. The trust was drawn up by his solicitors, Timmuss Sainer Dechert, and with advice from the Treasury Permanent Secretary Sir Terry Burns.

Mr Robinson, who has homes in Cannes, Surrey and London's Park Lane, also informed his solicitors and the Permanent Secretary that he was a discretionary beneficiary

of the trust. The Tories agreed that there was no question of Mr Robinson doing anything illegal. But Mr Lilley pointed out that Gordon Brown had told the Labour Party Conference in 1996 that "a Labour Chancellor will not permit tax relief to millionaires in offshore tax havens."

He said: "Since the election, we have discovered that no fewer than two of his own Treasury Ministers are millionaires with trusts in offshore tax havens. The sheer hypocrisy of Labour is breathtaking."

Simon of Highbury, the European Competition Minister, who speaks for the Treasury in the House of Lords. The former chairman of BP was forced to sell £2 million in shares, some of which were held in an off-shore trust, after Tory accusations of potential conflicts of interest with his new Government role.

Alistair Darling, Treasury Chief Secretary, defended Mr Robinson, insisting he had done everything according to the rules.

On BBC TV's *On the Record* programme, Mr Darling said: "He has done what every other Cabinet Minister and other Government minister has done in this Government and in the past."

## Clarke would aid Blair on EMU

Continued from page 1  
The Government is proceeding satisfactorily after its launch in January 1999, the Government could take a decision soon after the general election to join.

But with the Tories committed to fighting the election on an anti-single-currency ticket, the imposing presence of Mr Clarke in the pro-Europe camp could bedevil the Tory campaign.

Mr Clarke's stark private analysis of the Tories' plight will come as no surprise to his pro-European supporters. But it is a clear warning to Mr Hague of the dangers of pursuing what Mr Clarke and his supporters regard as a confrontational stance over Europe, which has already led to the resignation of two senior frontbenchers and the departure of the backbencher Peter Temple-Morris.

If Mr Clarke joins Mr Blair on the referendum campaign trail, senior Tories fear that other pro-Europeans such as Michael Heseltine, John Gummer and David Curry could follow suit.

One of Mr Clarke's supporters said: "Ken could not be clearer. If, and only if, the terms are right for Britain's entry, he would be prepared to share a platform with Blair."

Peter Riddell, page 22

## Adams No 10 visit on but he faces Boothroyd snub

GERRY ADAMS is to meet Tony Blair at Downing Street on December 11, but the Sinn Féin president faces an almost certain rebuff when he meets Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, this week to press for access to the Palace of Westminster.

Miss Boothroyd has agreed to an unprecedented meeting with Mr Adams and Martin McGuinness, Sinn Féin's two MPs, on Thursday because she never refuses to see elected members. However, it is thought highly unlikely that she will reverse her May ruling denying them Commons offices and other facilities unless they take their seats and swear allegiance to the Queen.

If Miss Boothroyd rejects their personal appeals Mr McGuinness, who unsuccessfully challenged her ruling in Belfast's High Court this au-

Blair may be determined to 'drive forward' Stormont peace, but Speaker stands firm, reports Martin Fletcher

turn, will take the case to the European Court of Justice.

The Prime Minister's invitation means Mr Adams will become the first Irish republican leader to visit Downing Street since Michael Collins in 1921, and just six years after the IRA fired three mortars at No 10 during a meeting of John Major's Gulf War cabinet.

A spokesman said Mr Blair was determined to "drive forward" the Stormont peace talks, but insisted Mr Adams would be treated the same as other leaders participating in those talks. There would be no

public handshake. Mr Adams and his delegation would be allowed to address what will undoubtedly be a huge media throng in the street outside the famous black front door.

Cecil Parkinson, the Conservative Party Chairman, said yesterday that it was "very, very early" to be rewarding Gerry Adams "as the IRA had merely put its plans to blow up Downing Street 'on ice'". David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, accused the Government of "massaging the egos" of the Sinn Féin leadership to calm IRA "sabre-ranting". Jeffrey Donaldson,

the UUP MP, said Mr Blair had given Sinn Féin a "propaganda coup".

But Paddy Ashdown, the Ulster-born Liberal Democrat leader, praised Mr Blair's courage and warned of a "terrifying period of blood and misery" unless Unionists grasped what he called "the best chance of peace my tortured country has ever had".

Mr Mowlem, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said the invitation showed Mr Blair's determination "to do everything in his power to bring peace to Northern Ireland".

Sinn Féin said Mr Adams' invitation to Downing Street made his exclusion from Westminster even harder to justify. Sinn Féin's MPs were both elected by large majorities last May, but would have to be "signed in" by the Speaker in order to attend Thursday's meeting. "That will say something to a lot of people about the nature of British democracy at Westminster," said a spokesman.

Another row erupted after David Andrews, the Irish foreign minister, said that any new cross-border body should have executive powers and a secretariat "not unlike a government".

Such a proposal is anathema to Unionists, who consider nationalist demands for cross-border bodies a backdoor route to a united Ireland.

A weekend conference of leading Unionists agreed to set up a think-tank to develop a unified strategy for defending the Union. The UUP is attending the Stormont talks but the Democratic Unionist and UK Unionist parties are boycotting them.



## Brain of Britain, aged 3

This three-year-old girl has registered an IQ of 158, putting the youngest member of Mensa within the top 1 per cent of the population. Dineshi Nigunanthan's mother, Rani, realised her daughter's intelligence when

she began speaking French at two, had a reading age of ten by her third birthday and excelled on the piano, at swimming and in ballet. Dineshi, from Hanworth, West London, has now joined a class of five-year-olds.

## Hypocrite MPs given warning on privacy

By FRANCIS GIBBS  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR judge says that the Bench will not protect hypocritical politicians from press intrusion when they develop a new privacy law.

Dame Mary Arden, a High Court judge and chairman of the Law Commission, the Government's law reform body, has said that politicians who propound family values but act differently in private should beware.

Her comments at a lecture in London came as ministers seek to assure the media that the privacy law which judges will develop when the Human Rights Bill becomes law will not impose harsh restraints on press freedom.

Last week the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, said that judges were adept at balancing privacy and freedom of expression. He said courts would not be actively creating a privacy right. They would instead adapt and build on the common law, using principles found in the law of trespass, nuisance and copyright.

Dame Mary, describing how the right to privacy and freedom of expression would be balanced, said that although hypocritical politicians could not expect protection, that did not mean that every detail of his or her lives was a matter of public interest which merited exposure.

Courts would be equally concerned to protect ordinary people who became caught up in some tragic event, such as the death of a child.

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## Tories protest as major evades court martial

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government will be challenged in the House of Commons today about claims that ministers intervened to stop an army officer being court-martialled.

Major Eric Joyce was suspended from the Adjutant-General's Corps in August after he published a pamphlet attacking the Army's "Victorian-style" social attitudes on class and race.

His case was sent to the Army Prosecuting Authority, the military equivalent of the Crown Prosecution Service, and Defence Ministry sources indicated that he would face a court martial.

However, officials said yesterday that the authority had

decided not to press charges. "The Army has decided that he should not be court-martialled and he continues his service in the Army," a spokesman said.

He confirmed that Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, had written to George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, about the case but refused to give details. According to leaked reports, Lord Irvine argued that Major Joyce could take his case to the European Court of Human Rights and "cause considerable embarrassment" to the Government.

The decision is said to have angered many in the Armed Forces who resent government

involvement in military discipline. Both the MoD and Labour denied claims that Major Joyce had once worked as an adviser for the party. Officials said John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, had met Major Joyce twice when he was an opposition defence spokesman. But he was just one of thousands of personnel the minister had met.

The MoD spokesman denied ministerial involvement in the case and said that the prosecuting authority had simply decided there was not enough evidence to press charges. "[Mr Reid] had no role whatsoever, nor had any other minister, in the army's handling of this issue," he



Joyce: accused Army of racial and class bias

said. But he admitted that it was "not normal" for a Cabinet Minister and the head of the Government's law department to be involved.

Robert Key, the Tory defence spokesman, accused Labour ministers of putting "political spokes in the wheels of justice". The Tories would raise the issue in the Commons at Defence Questions today, he said.

## Lord Chancellor's Whitehall plan

Continued from page 1  
he had not been appointed because of "personal trust and confidence", but because there was a logical coherence in the Lord Chancellor having such a role.

Lord Irvine said that to carry out the programme of constitutional reform, "the most ambitious and wide-ranging in Britain this century", there had to be formidable co-ordinating machinery.

Reporting directly to the Cabinet was a ministerial committee chaired by the Prime Minister. Separate committees on devolution, freedom of information, and the European Convention on also reported to that committee.

"My pivotal role, as chairman of all three committees is

to ensure that we think through the detailed implications of each of our reforms and get the inter-connections right," he said. His job was to "pull together and support my Cabinet colleagues whose departments have the lead responsibility for the components of our programme, and make sure all interests in government are properly taken into account."

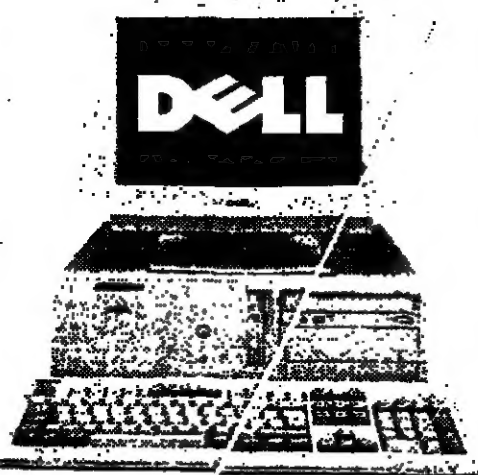
He said he found it startling that had John Smith, Tony Blair's predecessor as Labour leader, not been "cut down tragically", his close connection with the premiership would have been the same. Smith having been "my closest friend throughout life".

Leading article, page 23

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# House of cards collapses on luckless author

LIFE has suddenly dealt a bad hand to Michael Dobbs, the best-selling author of the *House of Cards* trilogy. The man who was tipped to be another Jeffrey Archer has financial problems and is selling his 17th-century farmhouse.

The former deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, who was promoted by Margaret Thatcher and John Major, has put his Dorset home in five acres of land on the market for £550,000. He conceived the character of Francis Urquhart, the machiavellian anti-hero of his trilogy, in the study of the six-bedroom house.

Despite the international success of his books, Mr Dobbs has confessed that he has serious financial problems. "I am not facing bankruptcy but my cash-flow situation is chaotic," he said.

"I have decided to reorder my life, which will make me happy and my publishers happy. It will also make my bank manager happy. At the moment he is unhappy."

"He knows, and I know, that I have spent too much unpaid time away from home on politics and not enough time writing books and earning money. I have written only

Politics has cost him his home and money. Andrew Pierce on the fall of the creator of Francis Urquhart

one book in the last three years. I have not had any income for the last two."

Mr Dobbs, 49, is moving back to London. His wife, Amanda, who inspired him to write *House of Cards*, has gone to work at a Buddhist school in Wales. Their sons William, 10, and Michael, 8, are at private school in the West Country. He declined to say whether the 17-year marriage was over.

The transition from Saatchi & Saatchi executive to Tory strategist to novelist was an extraordinary success. *House of Cards* has been one of the best overseas earners for the BBC in recent years. The political trilogy *House of Cards*, *To Play the King* and *The Final Cut* were international bestsellers. Mr Dobbs

said: "I don't know how much I earned. I have not been extravagant. But I am not Jeffrey Archer. He is a phenomenon - I'm not."

"Politics has been a passion that has taken me from the heights of public joy to the darkness of private despair. Cost me a fortune and my home."

Mrs Dobbs changed her name to O-Sel Nyima, which means Clear Light of the Sun, when she was ordained a Buddhist lama, or teacher. Her husband said: "I will not discuss my relationship. It is a personal matter. But there have been changes in my private life because of my involvement in politics for too many years. I have spent too much time away from home."

Mr Dobbs said that his devotion to the Tory party, which had been stretched to the limit by the new party leadership, had cost him dear both personally and financially. "I have been living in hotels for almost the last three years and have not received a bean in expenses from the Conservative Party."

"Politics must have cost me at least a six-figure sum. I'm not complaining. I am proud of what I have done in politics. But my experiences, like so many others in politics, show that the perception which I unwittingly created through Francis Urquhart that politicians are in it only for themselves is not true at all."

In the new year his seventh novel, *The Buddha of Brewer Street*, will be published. In it, the Dalai Lama, the Buddhist icon, dies and is reborn in Soho. "My wife's experiences with Buddhism were one of the reasons I wrote it," he said. He has high hopes of a television adaptation.

In the vast living-room of his house, near Bripport, statues of Buddha stand on pieces of furniture made by Dorset craftsmen. His study desk overlooks a splendid landscape. "I will miss it terribly," he said. "It will be a wrench leaving the countryside to live in London."



Michael and Amanda Dobbs at their farmhouse



McLauchlan and Grant Ferrie, who were married yesterday, pictured last year

## Nurse held in Saudi prison weds boyfriend of five years

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND ADRIAN LEE

ONE of the two British nurses jailed in Saudi Arabia married her boyfriend yesterday. After the 20-minute ceremony at Damman court house Lucille McLauchlan and Grant Ferrie drank "Saudi champagne", a non alcoholic sparkling fruit juice.

The bride was then returned to prison where she shared her wedding cake with Deborah Parry, who also faced trial over the killing of her colleague Yvonne Gilford.

McLauchlan, 32, was the first foreign woman prisoner to have been allowed to marry in custody in Saudi Arabia. The service was conducted, under Saudi law, by a judge and McLauchlan, from Dundee, wore Western clothes.

The bride was given away by her brother, John. Her parents were not present and the only other guest was Lawson Ross, the British Consul, who took flowers. Two policemen stood by.

Parry, 39, was convicted of the murder of Australian nurse Miss Gilford, 55, and McLauchlan, 32, of being her accomplice.

She was sentenced to eight years and 500 lashes, while the sentence on Parry, from Alton, Hampshire, has yet to be confirmed.

The threat of a possible death sentence for Parry was lifted after the family of Miss Gilford waived their right to demand the death penalty.

Salah al-Hejailan, a defence lawyer for Ms McLauchlan, said the fact that yesterday's "unprecedented and unforgettable" ceremony was taking place showed Saudi officials could be flexible and understanding.

The lawyer said visits would be allowed by her 30-year-old husband after the marriage, in line with Saudi practice, and these would take place within the women's jail where she is held.

He said that Parry had not attended yesterday's service because she was making the most of a prison visit by her own relatives.

Family friends have said the couple had planned to marry in June, and decided they did not want the year to go by without showing their commitment to each other. They had been engaged for five years.

McLauchlan's lawyer said: "Even under the nightmare when she was facing the death penalty they were adamant to get married and were seeking permission."

Lawyers for Parry and McLauchlan are confident that, after the lengthy appeals process is completed, neither will serve more than four years and could be back in Britain sooner if King Fahd intercedes with a royal pardon.

It is thought the pair may even be allowed to serve part of their sentences in Britain.

## Frost forecast catches locusts on the hop

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY  
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

AFTER one of the mildest autumns in recent years, Britain is about to lurch into a cold spell with snow, frosts, sleet and ice forecast tomorrow. As well as making life uncomfortable for humans, the sudden chill will cause further disruption to plants and animals already confused by a year of abrupt temperature changes.

In the West Country naturalists have made rare sightings of locusts, while gardeners fear frost will this week cut

down spring flowers tricked by the warmth into blooming weeks ahead of schedule.

The Met Office forecasts below-freezing temperatures at night in much of Britain through this week, with snow in Scotland and possibly north-east England. The AA warned motorists to take extra care.

The cold weather comes after the second warmest November in 20 years - in a year which saw an Easter heatwave followed by frosts in May and a variable summer that played havoc with fruit and cereal crops.

William Hill and Ladbrokes were yesterday both offering odds of 6/1 on a white Christmas.

The locusts were spotted at two sites in Cornwall, the first on October 17 at Goldsithney, near Penzance, and the second only last week at Cremyll, near the mouth of the Tamar.

Chris Haes, a grasshopper expert who identified them, said: "What makes them highly unusual is that they were both specimens of the solitary phase type of the migratory locust. There have probably not been more than seven or eight definite

records over the past 100 years. They could have come here from the Canary Islands, or even North Africa, on the strong, warm southerly winds that brought the recent freak thunderstorms." He said the insects would quickly be killed off by cold weather.

Meanwhile, camellias, which would normally not flower until the spring, are in full bloom in gardens near Truro in Cornwall, and the mild autumn has even triggered second flowerings in some plant species.

Forecast, page 26

## Women at risk given emergency mobile link

BY STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN who fear being attacked by violent partners are being given mobile telephones linked directly to the 999 service.

The scheme, developed by Hertfordshire police, was raised earlier this month in a Home Office report on good practice by police forces. It is now being studied by other forces.

Each of the seven police divisions in the Hertfordshire force has been issued with the £250 telephones, which are available to women and witnesses who are in danger of attack or victims of repeat burglaries.

The phones will only make calls to the 999 or Vodafone operator and give a unique identification sign. If the call is interrupted the sign is still transmitted and police will respond. The telephones also take incoming calls to allow police to check if the user is safe after an emergency call.

## Father of raped girl to appeal on abortion ruling

BY AUDREY MAGEE

AN Irish father vowed yesterday to carry on the legal battle to prevent his 13-year-old pregnant daughter from travelling to England for an abortion.

The girl was given High Court permission on Friday to terminate the pregnancy, which resulted from an alleged rape in August. The father, who is a member of the travelling community, is appealing for public funds to appeal the Supreme Court to try to stop the girl. He said that if he failed he wanted the aborted foetus sent back to Ireland for a funeral.

He told Irish radio yesterday: "We are Roman Catholics and I have sought an awful lot of medical advice on it and this can do very, very serious damage to our daughter."

The man originally wanted his daughter to have the abortion but changed his mind when Youth Defence, a militant anti-abortion group, offered financial support if the girl carried the baby to full

term. The group said that they would not give the family money if the child has the abortion.

The family lives on the side of the road in squalid conditions in west Dublin. The father, who is entitled to legal aid, is looking for £10,000 from the 22,000 members of the travelling community to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Youth Defence has backed away from the case, fearing that further court action could further widen the parameters of when abortion is permissible in Ireland. At present, a woman or girl can have an abortion if her life is in danger. The High Court ruled that the 13-year-old, who is now 13 weeks pregnant, at the centre of this case was at risk of suicide.

Sources close to the case said that the father was trying to capitalise on his daughter's difficulty. A man in his twenties has been charged in connection with the rape.

## Talented swimmer, 13, dies after gala

BY ADRIAN LEE

A 13-YEAR-OLD swimmer who was tipped to represent Britain at the Olympics collapsed and died after taking part in a gala. Laura Moss appeared to faint as she climbed out of the pool after a race in Weymouth, Dorset.

As hundreds of pupils and parents watched, lifeguards tried unsuccessfully to revive her. She died shortly after reaching hospital. The teenager, who had been selected to swim for England next month, was competing for Wey Valley School at Weymouth baths.

Her coach, Phil Daniels, said: "We are all absolutely devastated. Laura was an extremely talented athlete, and was a future Olympic star for Britain." Miss Moss was the youngest swimmer in Dorset to have been chosen for the national team and held county records in five disciplines.

Dorset Police said there were no suspicious circumstances and the coroner had been informed.

## Robot vacuum runs into snag

Robin Young finds intelligent cleaner is reluctant to perform

THE first intelligent vacuum cleaner, claimed to be able to sweep the floor without the benefit of a human operator, will be introduced to a sceptical world this morning.

The bad news is that though the world's largest household appliance manufacturer has built and demonstrated its prototypes for the world's first robot vacuum cleaner, there are no plans yet to put it into production.

"We hope that the robot vacuum cleaner will become a standard item in homes all over the world in future," Ian Symes, group marketing director for Electrolux, said. "What could be more user

friendly than a vacuum that operates itself? But we have more market research and development to do before we can go into production."

The robot vacuum is a smooth, round disc with an in-built navigational radar that enables it to vacuum its way around the room without bumping into furniture or other obstacles. Its microprocessor "brain" enables it to look for ways out when it runs into a corner.

The manufacturer's blurb claims: "When placed on the ground the robot vacuum cleaner automatically starts cleaning. It will clean a room of any size or shape without any human help. Its radar first finds the nearest wall



Robot vacuum cleaner attracts keen interest

and it vacuums all around the edge of the room. Then it will clean the rest of the room in irregular stretches, slowing down when approaching an obstacle and steering out of the way."

Elizabeth Farmer, marketing manager on the project,

said that improvement in battery technology had been a key element in making the robot cleaner possible. "Compared to two years ago, we can now get twice the amount of energy from the same size batteries."

The robots are sensitive, though. One demonstration prototype intended for carpet-testing by *The Times* this week refused to perform after a BBC science correspondent taken a screwdriver for a quick peek under its cover. The machine made hesitant little jiggling motions on the carpet, turning itself only fractionally and not getting any cleaning done at all.

"That is the sort of problem that has to be resolved," said Ms Farmer. "A production model should be able to have its lid lifted without suffering a brainstorm."





# Dropout students cost Britain £180m a year

THE cost of students who drop out of university has been put at £180 million a year by researchers for the Higher Education Funding Council for England. The huge bill represents public money spent on tuition, grants and university capital funding for the estimated 17 per cent of students who fail to finish their degrees.

A rethink of the transition from school to university is called for by the researchers, who found many dropouts were unhappy with the university they chose during "clearing", the frantic process to match students with spare places after A-level results are published.

The report, to be published later this month, suggests an induction period to make new undergraduates feel more at home, as well as changes to prospectuses to give students a better impression of the course or institution.

A summary of the report, seen by *The Times*, also contains a warning about the

**Cash problems and clearing system are most to blame for unhappiness at university, reports David Charter**

Government's introduction of £1,000 tuition fees for students from next autumn. Financial problems were found to be the second biggest influence on the decision to give up, mentioned by 39 per cent of those who dropped out in 1994-95, the year of the study.

The researchers said: "The findings indicate that those from working-class backgrounds are more likely than others to cite financial difficulties as a reason for withdrawal, and are less likely to re-engage in higher education."

A close watch will need to be kept on the impact of the Government's funding decisions in respect of working-class participation and retention in higher education, given the 'social justice' intentions of its policy.

They added: "The findings indicate that the students who enter through the clearing process tend to withdraw because they are unhappy with their institutions rather than because they made a poor choice of programme. This suggests that they did not have time to investigate adequately the qualities of the institution prior to enrolment."

"The argument has long been advanced for a greater period of time between the publishing of A-level results and entry to higher education, and this study adds a little weight on the side of reform."

Most of the 1,478 students surveyed in the research at six universities gave several reasons for giving up. Top was the wrong choice of subject, said to be a "considerable" or

"moderate" influence on the decision by 40 per cent of the dropouts. Other major influences were financial problems, lack of commitment, "course not what I expected", insufficient academic progress and the need for a break from education.

Two thirds of students who fail to complete their degrees drop out in the first year. If the money spent on completed years is assumed to be well spent, the annual amount wasted falls to £90 million.

Tony Higgins, chief executive of the Universities' and Colleges' Admissions Service, disputed the clearing process findings. He said: "Work we have done with universities and colleges shows that there is no greater dropout rate among people who go in for clearing."

"These people are making their decision a lot later and know more of what they want to do and what they are suited for. It underlines the need for a post-qualifications application system."



Harvey Atkinson advising a student yesterday. He urged parents not to mollycoddle their children

## Best advice for homesickness is to stick it out

By OUR EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE weeks leading up to Christmas are the peak time for dropping out from university and the busiest period for campus counsellors. Advisers say students most at risk are those who decline to seek help for homesickness, second thoughts or health and work problems.

Harvey Atkinson, welfare officer at the University of Brighton, said: "When homesickness strikes, we try to encourage students to stick it out, stay at weekends and get involved with things. Once they have got into a studying routine, things start to normalise and people get over it."

If students were struggling with their course, they should see a welfare officer, personal tutor or counsellor to assess their options, he said. Mr Atkinson added: "Parents should understand their child is becoming an independent individual when they go to college and they don't need mollycoddling. One parent was ringing every hour, which was putting unbearable pressure on the student."

Peter Ross, past chairman of the Heads of University Counselling, said about 6 per cent of students sought counselling each year. At Reading University, his service saw about 600 students annually. "Parents can help before university by ensuring kids spend more of their time away from home, and widen their circle of friends and people they regard as parental substitutes," he said. "In effect, one is inoculating them against homesickness."

He added: "The other thing that parents can do is encourage a year out. Not only does this give the kid a chance to make some money, but it also encourages them to get to know themselves a bit and build up resilience to the increasing pressures in universities."

Professor Gareth Williams, head of the Centre for Higher Education Studies at the Institute of Education in London, said there were huge variations in dropout rates among

different types of student and university. As many as 50 per cent of part-time students fail to complete their course, while some former polytechnics had overall dropout rates of 30 per cent, he said.

"Our system is getting much more like a European system with mass entry and rapidly deteriorating staff/student ratios. Therefore it is not surprising that dropout rates are rising. We are moving towards a French system where they have a 50 per cent dropout rate."

### REASONS FOR DROPPING OUT

#### LAST-MINUTE PANIC

Symptoms: grabbed place at last minute with no preparation and arrives disorientated, often with no accommodation. Solutions: prepare for Clearing by researching options and try to visit the university, explore area and meet tutors.

#### HOMESICKNESS

Symptoms: many students feel pangs of homesickness but some will suffer severely during the first term and also after going home for Christmas. Solutions: in the year or two leading up to university parents should ensure students spend more time away from home.

#### LATE DEVELOPER

Symptoms: student went to university because parents assumed they would go straight after school. Solution: instead of blaming their child for not knowing what they want to do, parents should encourage them to develop a wider range of interests.

#### FINANCIAL PRESSURE

Symptoms: many students feel they have to do part-time work to make ends meet, to the detriment of academic work. Solution: limit part-time employment (student union job clubs recommend no more than 15 hours a week). Welfare advisers can help to reschedule debts.

#### FAMILY CRISIS

Symptoms: bereavement, parental divorce or splitting from partner adds to disorientation. Solution: campus counsellors and welfare advisers can help with emotional as well as financial problems.

## Refugees find school too easy

By DAVID CHARTER

FAMILIES evacuated from Montserrat are so disappointed with standards in English schools that they are organising weekend lessons for their children.

Saturday classes in London, Birmingham and Manchester have been set up for youngsters among the 3,000 refugees who fled the volcanic eruption on their Caribbean island.

Islanders from the British dependency say they have found their children are years ahead of classmates and have been horrified by the discipline of other pupils.

Montserrat's education system was based on traditional whole-class teaching of the type given to British children before the introduction of child-centred classroom policies in the 1960s and 1970s, which

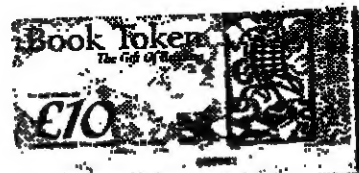
allowed pupils to set their own pace of learning. Teachers on Montserrat are still able to use corporal punishment and a smack with a ruler is often used. Janice Pantom, co-ordinator of the Montserrat Aid Committee, said: "Children were settling in well at English schools but parents were worried they were not being stretched."

"Certain parents have mentioned to me that their children are ahead in many subjects, and from what I understand it spans the age groups," she said. "It could be because we concentrate on the basics."

"We are talking to local authorities and I am hoping that the issues parents and children here are facing are resolved at a local level."

Leading article, page 23

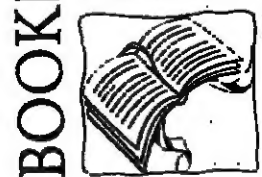
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# Tributes given for girl 'whose death touched thousands'

BY ADRIAN LEE

THE murder of Kate Bushell has touched thousands of people, the parents of the Exeter schoolgirl told a memorial service yesterday. About 800 people, including representatives from Devon and Cornwall Police, gathered for the service at St Thomas's High School in Exeter, where the 14-year-old was a pupil.

The dead girl's parents, Jeremy, 44, and Suzanne, 42, accompanied by their son, Tim, 16, said in a statement: "Kate's life touched hundreds of people, her death has touched thousands." As tributes were read, some of her friends were overcome by grief.

A team of 120 detectives are hunting the killer who cut the teenager's throat in a field a few hundred yards from her home in Exwick, near Exeter. She had been walking a neighbour's dog.

In their statement Mr and Mrs Bushell said that their



Kate, murdered while walking neighbour's dog

daughter's death had "shaken the whole community but ripples of this horror can be turned to good. Either of us would prefer to have taken her place on November 15 but it was not to be. As a family we have no option but to live on, accepting the cruelty of this tragedy."

The foyer of the school was filled with floral tributes and there were hand-made cards of condolence from pupils of

Exwick Middle School, which she had attended. Her last school timetable was also displayed, with examples of her embroidery and a book of condolence. Kate's life was shown in dozens of photographs from the family album, illustrating her interest in music, canoeing, climbing, camping and swimming.

Before and after the service, some of her favourite music was played, including JT, Eternal and the Lighthouse Family song *Postcards from Heaven*. Three of her tutor group read a poem and a school group played a piece for the clarinet — one of the instruments Kate played, together with the saxophone.

Four young girl members of the Isca Fellowship, the religious group to which Kate belonged, performed a dance in tribute to her.

Detectives have received more than 2,000 calls from the public about Kate's killing, a record for any murder inquiry in Devon and Cornwall.



Jeremy and Suzanne Bushell at their daughter's memorial service in Exeter yesterday: "Either of us would prefer to have taken her place"

## Interpol hunt for lost Luxor mother

BY PAUL WHITTAKER

THE Foreign Office may ask overseas governments to exhume the bodies of victims of the Luxor massacre if there is no success in locating the remains of a British mother lost in an identification mix-up.

The search for the remains of Karina Turner, 24, an air hostess, is taking place on four continents with a formal request sent through Interpol that no funerals be held for overseas victims matching her description. It is not known how many of the 58 foreign tourists killed in the November 17 massacre have so far been buried.

A Foreign Office spokesman said authorities may look at the possibility of exhuming bodies overseas as a last resort, if all other efforts failed to trace Ms Turner's remains.

It was the second indignity suffered by the family after a coffin supposed to contain the body of Ms Turner's mother, Joan, 51, was found to contain that of a Swiss woman. The Foreign Office spokesman said it was hoped the body of Joan Turner — mistakenly sent to Switzerland — would be returned to Halifax, West Yorkshire, this week.

## Surfers seek end to drive-by squirts

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

THE organisers of Britain's biggest surf festival have appealed for a ban on the sale of water guns after dozens of bystanders got caught in the crossfire last year.

Many of the 50,000 surfing and custom-car enthusiasts at the Run to the Sun event in Newquay, Cornwall, each spring bank holiday, engage in enormous water fights through the town, using pistols that fire powerful jets.

Police confiscated more than 100 of the pistols last year and there were many complaints by victims of the drive-by squirts. Residents say they dare not venture out during the festival and that the pistols, which can cost up to £40 each, have been loaded with beer, paint, bleach and even urine.

The event's organisers last week took out a half-page advertisement in the local newspaper calling on shops not to stock the weapons. They are threatening to organise a boycott of shopkeepers who defy a voluntary ban.

Organiser Chris Christophorus is concerned that while the shopkeepers make the money, the festival gets the blame for the chaos.

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# Spencer 'determined to clear his name in court'

Earl wants to give evidence after allegations that he told his mistress not to get fat, Joanna Bale reports

EARL Spencer is determined to continue with his divorce hearing this week, despite the threat of further allegations. Shelley-Anne Claircourt, his spokeswoman, denied speculation that he might opt for an out-of-court settlement to avoid the media scrutiny that continues to surround the hearing in Cape Town.

"He wants to put the record straight and clear his name," she said yesterday. "There have been some sensational allegations made under the protection of the court and he would like to reply to them in court."

Dozens more British newspaper and television journalists arrived in Cape Town at the weekend for the second week of the hearing, which promises further allegations from key witnesses.

Among those scheduled to

testify against Lord Spencer are Chantal Collopy, his former mistress, and Countess Spencer's father, John Lockwood, a retired Civil Aviation Authority personnel manager who has never commented publicly on his daughter's marriage.

The earl is expected to give his side of the breakdown of the relationship later this week. The hearing is continuing to provide headline news in the South African media. Yesterday the South African *Sunday Times*, a respected broadsheet, carried a front-page interview with the earl's current girlfriend, the fashion editor and former model Josie Borain. In it she criticised Lady Spencer and Mrs Collopy for their "bitter attacks" on his character.

Mrs Collopy yesterday said that their affair ended when



Spencer: could face legal bill of £600,000

he told her that he would never accept her two children despite having proposed marriage.

Mrs Collopy, who is also expected to give evidence this week, said in a television interview yesterday that he made her feel insecure about her looks because he told her not to get fat.

She told Sky News: "Just before I got divorced he had a

panic attack and said that he could not offer me a future. I was very confused."

"We had an argument and he said: 'I must let you know I will never accept your children' and I said that was the end of the relationship."

Mrs Collopy, 37, said she was devastated when the affair ended. She said: "I was now divorced with no one. I suddenly started feeling, as I had done before the relationship ended, very insecure about the way I looked and started worrying about my weight because he had mentioned to me that I should not get fat."

As the earl spent yesterday preparing to give evidence at the hearing at Cape Town's Supreme Court, legal experts estimated that his costs for the case will exceed the £300,000 that he has offered Lady Spencer as a settlement.

If the court rules in favour of Lady Spencer's wishes, to get divorced in London, where settlements are more generous, he will have to pay her legal costs and could be faced with a total bill of about

£600,000. Mrs Collopy, who has signed a five-figure deal with the *News of the World*, said on television yesterday that she joined forces with Lady Spencer after realising that she could help her to get a larger divorce settlement.

She said: "I said to her [Lady Spencer]: 'whatever you do, do not get divorced in this country.' She looked at me and said: 'I am trying not to. I said that I would try to help because we were both in a similar situation.'"

The earl has employed the British QC Nicholas Mostyn, as well as the South African barrister Leslie Weinbove. Lady Spencer has employed Jeremy Gauntlett, South Africa's leading barrister, and the British QC Jeremy Posnasky. Florence Baron, QC, has also been advising her.

According to legal experts, each QC is estimated to be charging a £30,000 brief fee, plus £2,000 a day for the hearing which could run into a third week. Mr Mostyn and Mr Posnasky will also be given generous expenses of around £20,000 each.



Mrs Collopy alleged that Lord Spencer said he would never accept her children

## Blair supported tax challenge on Diana estate

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales secured the backing of Tony Blair for a legal challenge to the £8 million inheritance tax bill on the legacy of Diana, Princess of Wales, it has emerged.

But the Prince, after consulting advisers, decided against supporting the tax avoidance scheme that was devised to try to protect the £20 million left to Princes William and Harry.

The Treasury was also unhappy it was disclosed yesterday, about a legal challenge that it feared could be a public relations disaster for the monarchy.

A Buckingham Palace source said last night: "Downing Street was not pushing the idea but merely confirmed that if the Prince decided to go ahead he would have the backing of the Prime Minister. Downing Street believed any presentational problems could be overcome."

"The Treasury was more concerned about the proposed scheme but in the end it was the Prince, in conjunction with the executors of the will, who decided not to go ahead with the idea."

The legacy of the Princess will be the subject of court proceedings within a month.

when John Major, as guardian of the finances of the young Princess, seeks more powers to protect the intellectual copyright on the estate.

The action is designed to ensure that income from commercial spin-offs benefits the boys. Such sales include an 8 in plastic doll of the late Princess being sold by Harrods for £39.95. The doll, in a satin replica of her wedding dress, is sold in the store's trademark green box.

The models went on sale before her death, there are no plans to remove them and no proceeds are being given to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. Last month Mohamed Al Fayed, the Harrods owner, whose son Dodi died with the Princess, banned the sale of Andrew Morton's updated biography, which was described as profiteering.

Musical tributes to the late Princess will dominate the Christmas charts. Mr Major is demanding that proceeds from the CD *Diana, Princess of Wales - Tribute* go to her sons. He regards the collection of 36 songs as the first target in moves to establish them as the owners of their mother's image.

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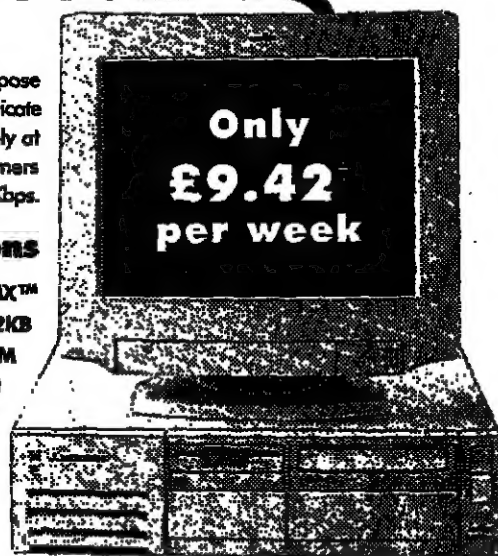
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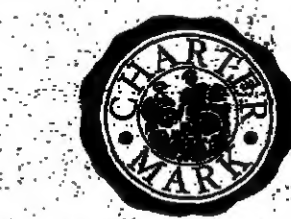
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# Mandelson in attempt to head off pit closures

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

MINISTERS were making strenuous efforts last night to draw up a rescue plan to head off a crisis in the coal industry.

Amid warnings that 5,000 jobs and at least five pits are at risk, Peter Mandelson, the Minister Without Portfolio, and Jonathan Powell, Tony Blair's chief of staff, are involved in the behind-the-scenes Whitehall operation. Mr Mandelson called in Mr Powell last week after witnessing a tense Commons debate on the future of the industry.

Three ministers — Richard Caborn, Minister for the Regions, John Battle, the Energy Minister, and Michael Mea-

cher, the Environment Minister — are taking part in talks aimed at averting job losses and pit closures.

Well-placed sources suggested that within a week ministers would be able to come up with proposals designed to avert a politically damaging round of cuts. They ruled out direct state subsidies for the privately-owned mining industry.

Cuts on opencast mining and the "dash for gas", bigger coal stockpiles at power stations and state support for "clean-coal technology" electricity plants are believed to be among the measures being considered.

Hundreds of angry miners are expected to besiege Westminster on Wednesday when the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee begins an inquiry into the problems facing the privatised industry.

To the anger of Labour MPs, Arthur Scargill, the President of the National Union of Mineworkers, is expected to boycott the hearing to be attended by unions

and representatives of the coal industry. Some sources said that Mr Scargill would not sit down with leaders of the breakaway Union of Democratic Miners. Others said that he was angry because he would not get more than 25 minutes before the committee.

The crisis has been triggered by RJB Mining, the private company that owns

most of the nation's 23 pits. It has given a warning that its failure to secure enough contracts with the electricity generators National Power and Powergen threatens another round of closures. The power companies say it is charging too much for its coal and ministers are resisting its call for subsidies.

Alan Meale, Labour MP for

the mining area of Mansfield, yesterday attacked Richard Budge, the RJB chief executive, accusing him of trying to "bludgeon" the Government into releasing subsidies by threatening closures.

"He doesn't give a damn about the coalfield communities and is using them to extract more profits," Mr Meale said, pointing to RJB

plans to invest in opencast mines in Australia and accusing it of failing to invest at home while making profits of £200 million a year.

The board of RJB Mining is due to meet today to decide the future of up to five mines and 5,000 jobs. In a Commons debate, John Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, will claim that gov-

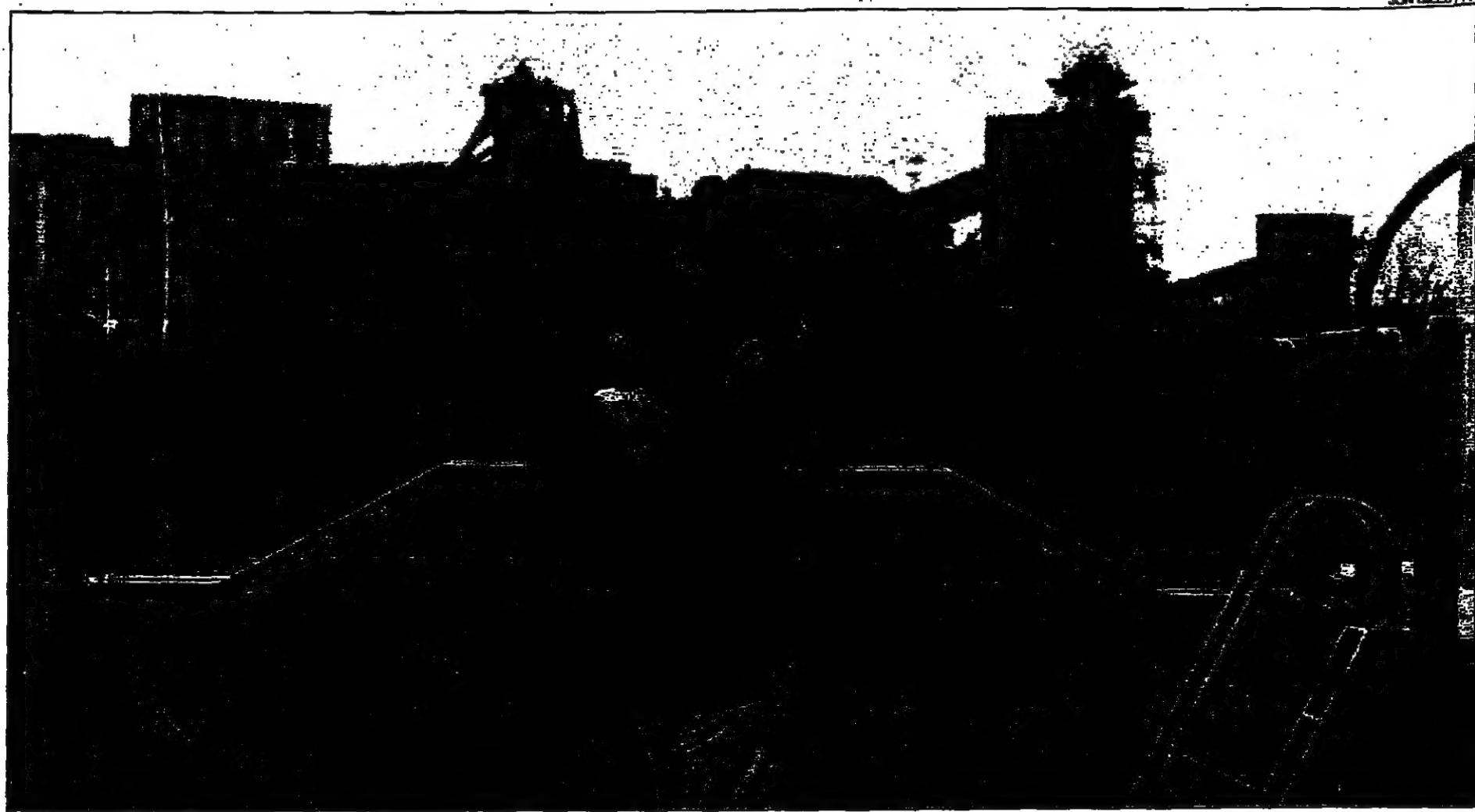
ernment refusal to help the coal industry is putting 50,000 jobs at risk.

RJB said its directors would be reviewing all options at the meeting and that it would be "the start of the process" that might ultimately lead to job losses.

The company yesterday called on the Government to begin a review of the electricity

market. Stuart Oliver, spokesman for RJB, said: "The odds are still stacked against coal."

The company rejected accusations that it is using the threat of job losses to try to win government support. It came under renewed pressure yesterday when it was revealed that a rival company, Midlands Mining, will consider buying pits that RJB closes.



Hatfield Colliery, near Doncaster, where more than 2,000 miners worked, now employs fewer than 100. It is one of the pits facing more job losses as mine owners meet

## Meeting sifts claims to Nazi gold

By MICHAEL BINYON  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

HISTORIANS, Holocaust survivors and politicians from more than 40 countries arrive in London today to begin three days of investigations into the murky secrets of Hitler's trade in gold.

On the eve of the meeting evidence has surfaced suggesting that long after the Second World War bankers and intelligence officers destroyed German documents relating to Nazi gold sales to neutral countries.

Microfilms of documents from the postwar forerunner of Germany's Bundesbank surfaced last week in Vienna, giving details of wartime gold transactions by the Reichsbank.

The files, turned over to the Bank der

Deutschen Länder by the Americans in 1948, mysteriously disappeared in the 1950s. Only some poor quality microfilms were found in America. But last week 22 good quality microfilms of more than 700 documents from the Reichsbank were discovered by German researchers. The documents are believed to show the sale of Nazi gold to Switzerland and other neutral countries.

The conference starting tomorrow in Lancaster House will attempt a sober evaluation of this trade, as well as determining how much gold was looted from the vaults of occupied countries and how much was melted down from the teeth and jewellery of Holocaust victims.

The spotlight will inevitably be on Switzerland, which bought the bulk of German gold. But other neutral countries

involved included Sweden, Spain, Portugal and Turkey. Since a Foreign Office report in September last year revived interest in the gold, the neutral countries have opened sealed archives and examined their wartime records.

Six organisations representing the main victims of the Nazi quest for gold are travelling to London. Five are from Jewish groups and one represents European Romanies.

Some £40 million of gold, stored in the Bank of England and America's Federal Reserve Bank, has still not been distributed. The governments of Britain, France and America, which make up the Tripartite Gold Commission, want the conference to endorse their plan to give the money directly to a fund to benefit Holocaust survivors.

## MPs join ex-PoWs' pay battle

Richard Duce on a £20m fight between the MoD and camp veterans

A LONG-running fight between former British prisoners of war and the Defence Ministry over "lost pay" worth £20 million will be raised in parliament today.

Captured officers who spent time in Italian and German POW camps during the Second World War say they have been cheated out of money that was docked from their salaries during their incarceration.

For 17 years campaigners representing more than 8,000 officers have attempted to

have the money returned, not to individuals but into a fund for needy ex-servicemen or forces widows. After a recent investigation the MoD has rejected their claim but Group Captain Alex Ingle, DFC, a former RAF pilot, is determined to fight on.

He says he has cross party support and today two Conservative MPs — Christopher Gill (Ludlow) and Nick Gibb (Bognor Regis and Littlehampton) — have tabled questions on the issue. They will want to know why evi-

dence from former PoWs was omitted by the ministry in rejecting the claim.

Group Captain Ingle, 81, who was held in Stalag Luft 3 in Silesia, said: "We didn't give up during the Battle of Britain and we don't intend to give up now."

The lengthy dispute hinges on the Geneva Convention, under which officers were supposed to receive camp pay from their captors to cover the cost of food, cigarettes and purchases from camp shops. Campaigners say the sums

were wrongly deducted by the British Government.

The MoD accepts it no longer has their pay records but its report rejecting the compensation claim said: "The weight of the evidence that survives shows there to have been a proper pay policy and a system for the adjustment of pay accounts."

□ The Queen Mother has attacked the sale of war memorabilia from former churches and chapels to antique dealers in Britain and America.

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# Opera chiefs may bow out before MPs' bad review

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

RESIGNATIONS from the Royal Opera House board and management were predicted last night by MPs in advance of Wednesday's highly critical parliamentary report on the company.

The findings of the Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport have been described as a "devastating critique", "uncomfortable reading" and "radical" as MPs have sought to make sense of the worst financial crisis facing the Royal Opera House in its 51 years. Committee members have been sworn to secrecy about the recommendations, which must first be published in Parliament, but one said last night: "It is pure Kaufman at his best" — referring to the forthright language used in the report by Gerald Kaufman, the committee chairman.

Lord Chadlington, chairman of the Royal Opera

## Bailiffs call for overdue rent cheque

BAILIFFS visited the Royal Opera House last week demanding immediate payment of overdue rent (Adrian Lee writes). A cheque, thought to be for tens of thousands of pounds, was handed over to prevent assets being seized from its offices at Covent Garden.

The opera house denied it was facing a new crisis. The cheque was several weeks late, admitted Keith Cooper, a spokesman for the opera house. "Whenever you have a financial scare, people are keen to get their money. I would imagine this was just a case of someone who was determined to get their money getting heavy."

He described it as an isolated incident. "Our cash flow has to be managed very carefully," said Mr Cooper.

Board, who is better known as Peter Gummer, chairman-founder of the public relations company Shandwick, was unavailable for comment last night.

He and other board members and management will be allowed to see the report tomorrow. They include Vivienne Duffield, daughter of the late tycoon Charles Clore, who is worth an estimated £40 million and one of the opera house's greatest patrons. In July she and Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover donated £2 million to keep the company going.

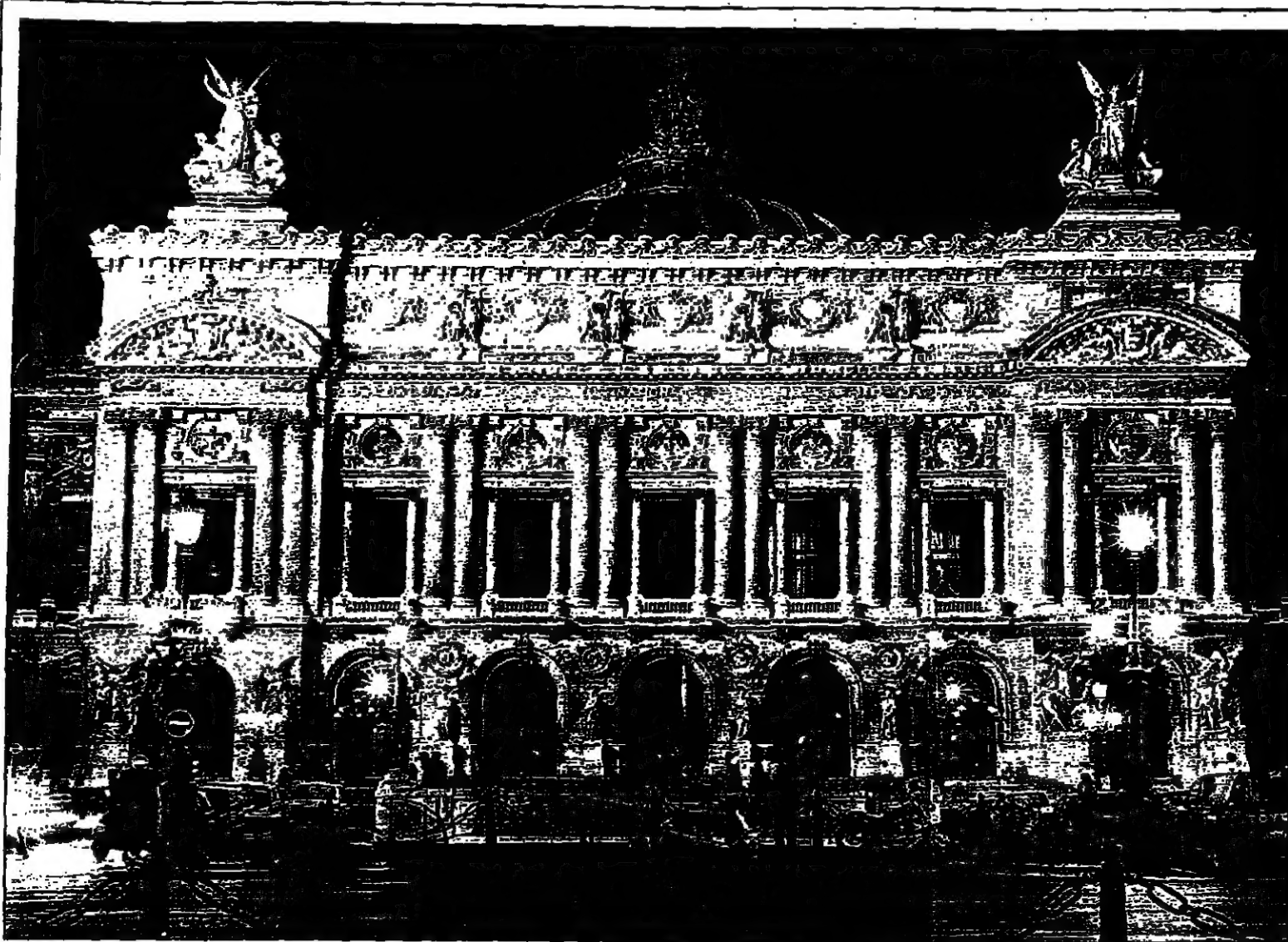
Other directors are Michael Berkeley, the composer, Robert Gavron, chairman of the Guardian media group, and Carolyn Newbigging, chairman of the Friends of Covent Garden.

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, may also be criticised for his handling of the opera house crisis and for approving the appointment of Mary Allen as the new chief executive at the request of Lord Chadlington instead of authorising an advertisement for the post.

There was speculation among MPs that individuals may decide to walk away from the opera house's finances before the report's publication. Mr Kaufman will hold a press conference on its findings on Wednesday morning.

During committee hearings he described the opera house finances as a shambles, told the management "You are running things incompetently" and added: "The Arts Council would be nuts to give you an extra penny until you have sorted yourselves out."

The company has received £78 million National Lottery money and an annual subsidy of more than £14.5 million but has an operating deficit of £4.5 million, which is expected to double by the end of 1999. Last month a second rescue package this year saved the house from insolvency.



The stately façade of the old Opera House in Paris belies the undignified squabbles between management, singers, musicians and state

## French melody descends into discord

Adam Sage reports on dramatic developments across the Channel

FRENCH opera, too, is in crisis, with its stars deserting amid historic rows, finances in the red and administrators accused of corruption.

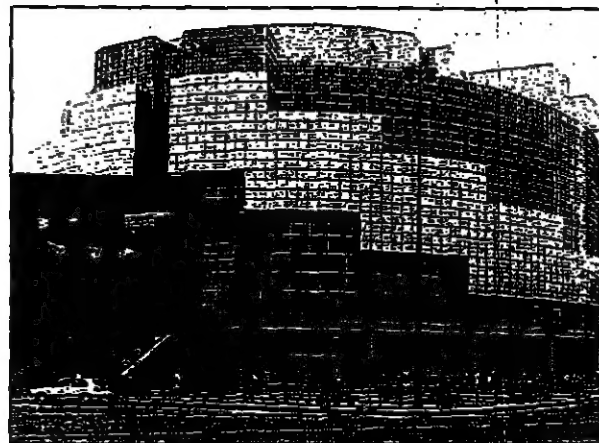
The heavily subsidised opera houses, which have provided enough backstage melodrama in recent years to become a national joke, talk of an imminent catastrophe. They blame the Government, the judiciary and the public. They do not blame themselves.

French media last week reported that three directors of the National Opera in Lyons, almost the only house in France to enjoy a reputation for quality and financial responsibility, are under judi-

cial investigation. Louis Erlo, Jean-Pierre Brosnan and Jacques Hédoine are accused of signing secret contracts giving them the rights to recordings made by the opera's musicians. The allegations surfaced in a report last year by the regional public accounts committee, which said the three men enjoyed £300,000 salaries and lavish expense accounts.

Olivier Ducatel, a musicians' union representative in Lyons, said: "We were always told our records sold badly, until we discovered that our bosses were getting the money from the sales."

The claims are damaging at a time when opera directors are pressing Catherine



The Bastille Opera House: scene of stormy rows

Trautmann, the culture minister, for more money. In an interview last month Hugues Gall, director of the Bastille and Garnier opera houses in Paris, said: "French society in general, and the politicians in

particular, don't take music seriously. We are heading for a catastrophe." He admitted that his two opera houses already received a state subsidy of £60 million a year but maintained that "my budget

is tight". That has not always been the case at the Bastille Opera House. Built for £400 million on the orders of President Mitterrand, it ran up huge debts and became notorious for rows between stars and management.

Since M Gall took over in 1995 he has stopped the financial losses, largely with state aid. But the disputes go on. This month Patrick Dupond, a star of the Bastille ballet corps, was sacked for visiting the Cannes Film Festival during rehearsals.

The French press said that other dancers were likely to leave because the Bastille's salaries of £60,000 a year are far less than those paid in other Western countries. *Le Monde* talked of a "haemorrhage of stars". M Gall replied: "I take people on. I get rid of them. I'm here to take the flak."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Yates flies in asking for privacy to mourn

Paula Yates returned to Britain from Australia yesterday, asking to be left alone to grieve in peace after the funeral of her rock star lover Michael Hutchence.

Carrying their daughter, 16-month-old Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily, she avoided photographers at Heathrow Airport and was driven to a secret destination.

Her spokesman, Anthony Burton, said: "Ms Yates is resting and will not be returning to her home in the foreseeable future."

## Fatal pursuit

An investigation has begun after a motorist was killed during a police pursuit in Gateshead, Tyne & Wear. Geoffrey Bellamy, 59, was thrown from his Vauxhall Cavalier before it plunged into the River Derwent.

## Thrust auction

An auction of spare parts, clothes and other items used in the Thrust world land-speed record raised £50,000. The sale, at Farnborough, Hampshire, was held to help to meet huge debts incurred by the British team.

## Vigil for Aids

Frank Dobson, Health Secretary, will read a message from Tony Blair at a vigil in London to mark the 10th World Aids Day. Tributes will be paid to Diana, Princess of Wales, patron of the National Aids Trust since 1991.

## Warm welcome

Thirty-seven WinterWatch shelters set up by Crisis, the charity for the homeless, open today to provide beds, food, medicine, advice and companionship until the end of March for up to 4,000 people who sleep on the streets.

## Patagonia patter

A three-year project to teach Welsh in Patagonia has been approved by Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary. The £40,000 scheme, run by the British Council, aims to double the number of learners attending Welsh classes there to 700.

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## But Blair urged to stick to English in EU meetings

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

Officials are adamant that it is better for ministers to be "well briefed and up with the substance of meetings and

Probably the easiest lesson for him is that CAP (Common Agriculture Policy) is known as La PAC (Politique Agricole



Patricia Le Ret, a French teacher with Linguarama, takes Jack Cunningham through his paces. About 150 have signed up with the school.

Commune). But he will have to learn specialist agriculture phrases such as "set aside", which is *la mise en jachère*, and "subsidy", which is *une subvention*.

Tim Allan, a special adviser at No 10, is also brushing up

produce some howlers of misinterpretation. *Décevoir*, for example, in French, means to be disappointed or sorry. But English speakers sometimes confuse it with the English to deceive and sometimes believe the French might be insulting them with unfounded allegations of deceit. Similarly *pretendre* means to assert or to maintain but some English speakers confuse it with the English to pretend or to fake.

Confusion can provoke quite virulent reaction. For

example, the sentence: "*Les Britanniques prétendent que le boeuf est maintenant sain*" — "the British claim beef is now safe to eat" — can easily be misconstrued as "the British are now feigning that their beef is safe to eat".

**Prime Minister will use presidency to set his vision on track, writes Charles Bremner**

The Prime Minister's image-makers picked the high-tech terminus of the Eurostar service to embody the "Cool Britannia" that Mr Blair wants to project to the Continent as he seeks to "reconnect the peoples of Europe with the European Union". The site for Friday's media stunt was snoured

Britain's new "people" rhetoric is raising eyebrows in Continental governments, which long ago diagnosed and tried to repair the EU's image problem. However, there is widespread acknowledgment in Brussels, Paris and Bonn that the Blair crusade is proving popular in the unemployment-plagued states.

A big test on the monetary front comes in Brussels today when Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, tries to convince fellow ministers to limit the scope of a planned "Euro-council", which will group the states inside the single currency from 1999. Britain is fighting a rear-guard action, alone with

**Amid the razzmatazz at Waterloo on Friday, Mr Blair will explain how he aims put a British stamp on the union by focusing on employment, crime and the environment. He will also declare that a top priority for the British presidency will be to launch the negotiations to bring the former Soviet bloc states**

London would do everything it could to speed the EU membership of these states, plus Slovenia and Estonia, after it starts the entry negotiations in March, he promised. "Britain will fight for the enlargement of the European Union," Mr Cook said.

Mr Cook's team believe they conveyed the message that Britain is an alternative and equal partner to Germany, the powerhouse that dominates the economies of the east. With skilful diplomacy, the Government believes, Britain can shrug off the handicap of non-membership of the euro and cast itself as the leader of a more outward-looking Greater Europe.

# Germans 'will win war with a single currency'

By NICHOLAS WOOD

However there was a fatalistic belief that Britain would eventually be dragged into embracing the euro. One Tory aide said: "There is a strong sense that, if all the other countries went in and it succeeded, we might be forced to join it."

The findings suggest that opposition to a single currency — 50 per cent against and 39 per cent in favour, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Sun* — is not deeply rooted. The majority of people dislike the idea and fear that it would destroy national identity but, at the same time, admit that they do not know enough about the venture — due to start in January 1999.

The furore over William Hague's decision to rule out the euro for ten years — which led to a Shadow Cabinet resignation — has also failed to register with voters. Few people had a clear idea of Conservative policy.

When they were told that "key decisions about the British economy would be taken by a new central bank in Germany", one member of the older group said: "That would mean they would get through a single currency what they could not get through the war."

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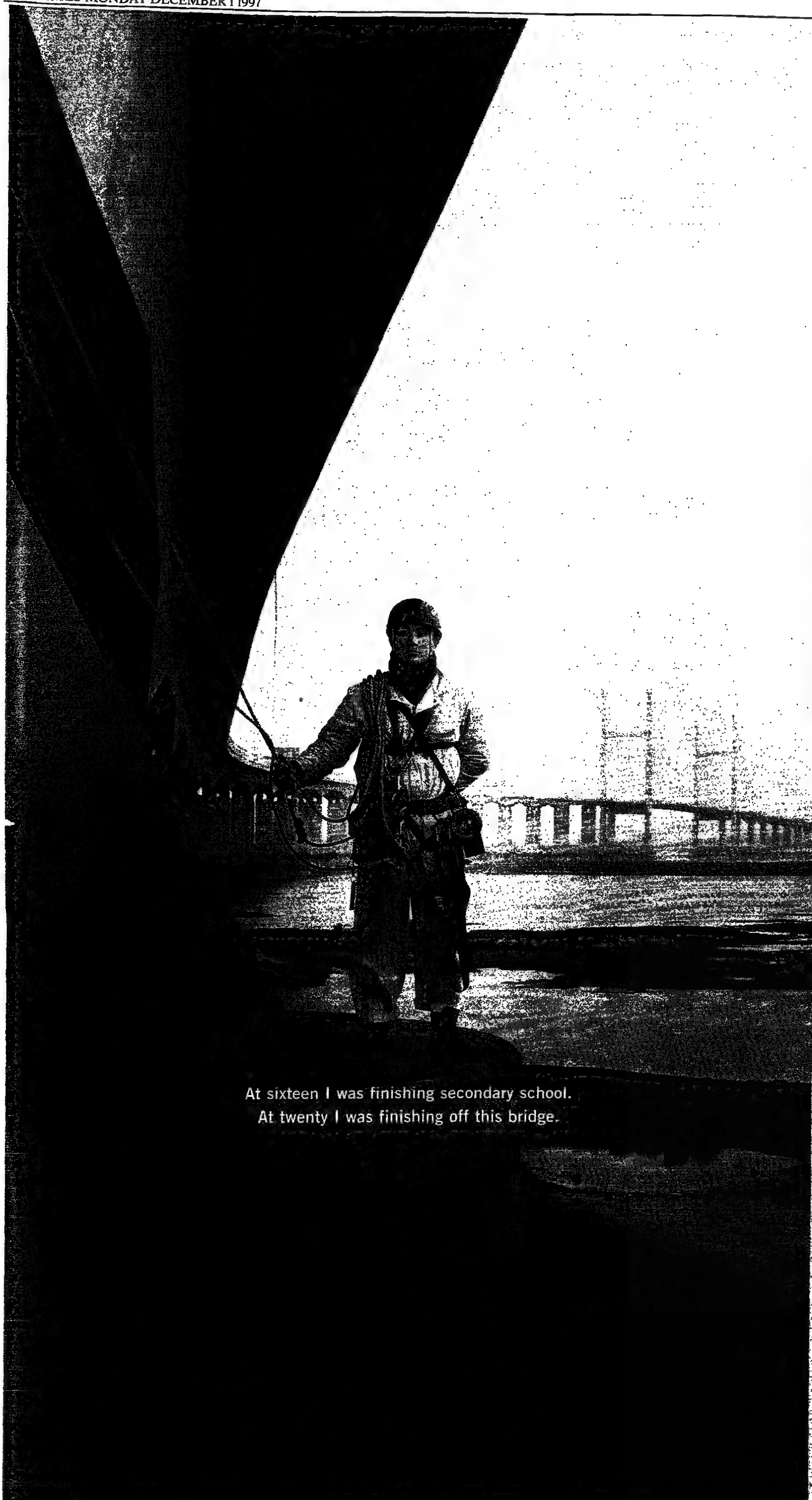
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# Clinic shut over allegations of infected sperm

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

FERTILITY clinics in Italy were inundated with calls from patients at the weekend after the arrest of a gynaecologist on charges of knowingly inseminating women with infected sperm.

Luca Mencaglia, 43, and his team at a clinic in Florence are also alleged to have used women prostitutes as egg donors, and to have "illegally traded in sperm and eggs" by paying donors.

Police shut the Centro Florence clinic, and raided 30 artificial insemination centres to which it regularly supplied sperm for test-tube conceptions. Six were closed immediately. Dr Mencaglia and three colleagues — a doctor, a biologist and an anaesthetist — have been charged with "knowingly attempting to cause an epidemic", fraud,

and "bodily injury". They deny the allegations.

Investigating magistrates said they were focusing in particular on one sperm donor who had been found to be suffering from hepatitis B, hepatitis C, herpes and other viruses. Hepatitis C can cause liver disease, and even death. Magistrates said the man had given 42 samples of sperm over a four-year period. The infected donor's sperm had supplied a thousand female patients, and there was a "high risk" that they had in turn transmitted infections to their children and husbands or partners, magistrates said.

Police said the Florence sperm bank was first suspected when it advertised for donors in newspapers. The sperm donor at the centre of the allegations said he had

been told by officials at the Florence clinic to "deny everything", but had "confessed all" to police.

There has been a boom in fertility clinics in Italy, where the birth rate is one of the lowest in the world, but many are not properly regulated. One woman who gave eggs to the clinic said she told doctors that she had cancer surgery, but this was brushed aside. Emma Cosentino, the public prosecutor in Florence, said that the "interests of public health were subordinated to the profit motive".

Dr Mencaglia said the charges were a "nightmare". "Why would we have continued to use a sick donor at the risk not only of harming our patients but also of compromising our entire business?" he said.



Vaclav Klaus, the outgoing Czech Prime Minister, appears at a window at his party headquarters to urge a crowd of slogan-chanting supporters to calm down

## Klaus resigns as scandal smashes Czech coalition

FROM EMMA MCCLUNE IN PRAGUE

VACLAV KLAUS, the former golden boy of the "Czech economic miracle", resigned as Prime Minister over the weekend after his three-party coalition Government collapsed under the strain of a party funding scandal.

In a television speech yesterday, Mr Klaus denied all allegations of corruption and promised to help President Havel with a speedy formation of a new administration, although the former Prime Minister will not be included in the new Cabinet.

The resignation came in the wake of a string of ministerial resignations last week and a great deal of finger-pointing from former political allies.

By last Friday, several ministers — including key coalition partners — had resigned or threatened to pull the plug on the coalition after it emerged that a large investor in a privatised Czech steel company had donated huge sums to Mr Klaus's Civic Democratic Party (ODS) be-



Havel: holding talks to find new government

fore last year's elections. Yesterday, Mr Havel was holding meetings with leading politicians to decide on a new government structure. Most likely, no new leader or Cabinet will emerge until the ODS holds a party conference later this month.

The author of both the country's privatisation process and the 1993 split of Czechoslovakia said that he had nothing to apologise for.

Leading article, page 23

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## 'Dumbing down' duo turned off

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE belching, grunting, giggling duo known as Beavis and Butt-head, who personified the gormlessness of Generation X, have ended their five-year run on American television to the great relief of parents across the nation.

During their shows on the MTV cable channel, the cartoon couch potatoes did little more than poke fun at rock music videos, declaring:

"That's cool" or "This sucks". Yet the teenage delinquents clearly expressed a deep and ugly truth about American youth that made them instant celebrities, not to say role models, among the high-school set. Their adolescent antics have already spawned the movie *Beavis and Butt-head Do America*, three books and an assortment of clothing, toys, video games and other spin-offs.

"There is something kind of liberating about complete losers too dumb to realise what losers they are," says their creator, Mike Judge, 34, who modelled the pair on his own "dateless" teenage years.

"They're just 14-year-old teenage metal heads who haven't much of a life."

The two made their first appearance on MTV in an animated short, *Liquid Television*, and in 220 episodes of their own show won fans as diverse as the conservative pundit Rush Limbaugh and the comedian David Letterman before wrapping up their television career.



TV morons: Beavis and Butt-head

The cultural studies departments of America's great universities will no doubt devote considerable energy to discerning the sociological significance of these unattracted morons. To some, their inarticulate ravings represent the "dumbing down" of America. To others, their jokes about women's breasts express a wider backlash against political correctness. The main reason for their success must be that Beavis and Butt-head represent a large part of MTV's viewership, sex-crazed boys who mis-spent their youth by sitting around in front of the television.

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## Dynamic duo enlisted to challenge Kohl

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

Hollywood encourages the idea that men naturally bond, that relationships between buddies, however improbable, are the dynamo that drives the world: Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Laurel and Hardy, Batman and Robin. The truth resides elsewhere. Men do have best friends but rarely do they become partners in politics, where competitive instincts dictate reserve.

It would be difficult to make a Hollywood film out of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, Bill Clinton and Al Gore. Yet the power of myth-making is such that people assume the male duo to be part of the order of things.

Certainly, that was the calculation of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) as it tried to find a way of ousting

Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor. Over the past 15 years, the German leader has stolen so many SPD policies, and working-class voters, that little now divides the Government from the opposition. The budding election campaign barely mentions policies, only "visions of the future" and personalities.

Herr Kohl is depicted as a man so past it that he has to consult his wife on the economy. But he is in situ. Opinion polls show that the SPD and the Greens could topple the Government but there is a long way to go to the election in September.

After Oskar Lafontaine flopped badly against Herr Kohl in 1990 — the worst SPD result since 1957 — it was deemed that no single man could win against such a formidable statesman.

In 1994 the Social Democrats came up with a troika: Rudolf Scharping, candidate for the chancellorship, Herr Lafontaine and Gerhard Schröder, the premier of Lower Saxony. They were filmed walking three abreast to the music of Elgar and the effect was ridiculous. Now a tandem of Herr Lafontaine

and Herr Schröder is supposed to do the trick. Posters show them looking together into the horizon.

This week the SPD will confirm the "two heads are better than one" strategy. But it does so with reluctance. In the constituencies, party workers are calling for a clear candidate to challenge Herr Kohl. A straw poll of delegates about to attend the annual conference tomorrow indicated that Willy Brandt, the late Chancellor, was still their hero.

The present understanding is that the rival to Herr Kohl will be chosen in March, as soon as the Lower Saxony elections are over. If Herr Schröder does well, he gets the job. If he fares badly, Herr Lafontaine has another

joust with Herr Kohl. This is not a happy arrangement, since somebody will have to take second place.

At the moment Herr Lafontaine looks better placed. A party chairman, if he does his homework, can dominate the annual conference; he gives the keynote speech and winds up at the end. Herr Schröder is due to speak only on Thursday, at the tag end. The Left favours Herr Lafontaine and distrusts Herr Schröder. This matters more than it should. If the SPD makes common cause with the Greens, the influence of the Left will grow.

The party, however, needs Herr Schröder to capture the centre. This dependency is resented by delegates who have slipped out of the habit of thinking about voters. They do not like a man who

hobnobs with the captains of industry.

Delegates believe they have a choice between the Lionel Jospin route to power (represented by Francophile Lafontaine) and the Tony Blair road (anglophile Schröder). Annual conferences have strategic choices. And so, they will duck and weave this week, and leave it to the two buddies to fight it out. There is, however, another way. The voting system makes it almost impossible to change power at a general election. One possibility is that Herr Kohl has to form a coalition with Herr Lafontaine as Vice-Chancellor. When this collapses (as it must), there will be new elections — and the big chance for Herr Schröder.

## Heroin subsidy pushes addicts off the streets

FROM ROGER BOYES IN FRANKFURT

IN Frankfurt, financial heart of continental Europe, many roads lead to oblivion.

You can shoot up behind a dustbin, you can curl up on a stairwell. Or you can walk past the shining glass headquarters of Germany's leading banks and enter a pleasant room with potted plants and, at state expense, pump yourself full of heroin.

Bernie is a junkie commuter. He takes the free minibus — "The Dream Bus," he calls it — from the railway station to the east of the city. At a large council-run house, he can inject himself. "You can stay a bit longer there. And it's got wall mirrors." He points to his neck, the only body part left where he can still stab his syringe. The halogen lights, the magnifying mirrors, make it easier to find the vein.

"Been here before?" a social worker asks a man of 23 or 24, a debutant in the new regulated world of heroin addiction. There is a form to be signed, testifying that he is over 18, that he is not on a methadone cure, and that (this being Germany) he will obey the rules. Bernie, impatient for his fix, shifts from foot to foot waiting for the youth to be initiated. A plastic bowl is handed over, together with the ingredients of a fix: ascorbic acid, distilled water, part of a tampon to act as a filter, a spoon, a syringe and some cooking salt. Now it's Bernie's turn.

Policy on hard drugs across Europe is on the cusp of a

revolution. In Zurich, addicts are given heroin on prescription and injected on city-subsidised premises. A council employee stands by as the addict injects; doctors are on hand; the exact dose is monitored on a computer. In The Netherlands, from next May, city authorities in Amsterdam

Out of a sense of decorum and a concern for property prices, solid citizens foot the bill

and Rotterdam will start giving heroin to addicts in a trial run. And in German cities such as Hamburg and Stuttgart, drug experts are pressing for similar schemes to that in Frankfurt: no heroin hand-outs — not yet — but a controlled environment for hard-drug abusers. If there is a debate about marijuana in Germany, it centres on whether one should be allowed to smoke and drive. Hard-drug addiction is the problem, and so that is where solutions are being sought.

"We started in 1993," said Regina Ernst, Frankfurt city's drug specialist. There are four consumption rooms and they are used for about 770 fixes a week. "There have been clear

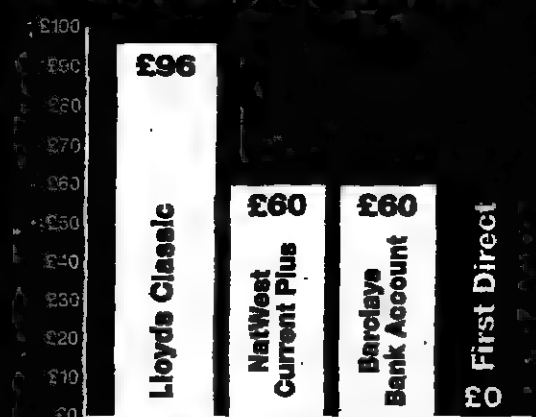
advantages, in terms of hygiene, and in providing a stress-free, low-risk place to inject. We have also helped to take addicts off the streets, so this is welcomed by residents and shopkeepers." Frankfurt and Zurich are synonymous with wealth. Yet both are junkie cities, heroin dealers outnumbering share dealers. It is easy to deduce why city elders have been willing to experiment with hard-drug policy. Boutique owners do not like comparable addicts sprawled in their doorways. Inner-city residents are tired of paying for private security companies to drag overdrinking teenagers out of pedestrian precincts. Thus, out of a sense of decorum, a concern for property prices and turnover, solid burghers are supporting state-subsidised heroin rooms. The Forsa Institute found that 52 per cent of Germans favour the "consumption rooms". The approval rating in Switzerland is even higher, around 70 per cent.



An addict in a Frankfurt clinic that provides "clean" fixes of heroin on the state. Residents and shopkeepers approve as junkies are no longer injecting in public

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# Tough US line threat to global warming talks

THE UNITED STATES is in danger of becoming the villain of the global warming talks opening today in Kyoto, as negotiators from 160 countries try to bridge the deep divisions between America and other industrialised countries.

Japan, the conference host, has made clear that America's refusal to compromise could torpedo the ten-day talks on a new international treaty to combat the threat of climate change. Hiroshi Oki, the chairman and Japan's Environment Minister, told Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, in a final briefing that the conference's success hung on whether the US surrendered some of its demands.

American officials hit back yesterday at their critics, saying that they were prepared to negotiate but would not sign an "unrealistic agreement". For others "to suggest that the US should be the only nation that must compromise is not really very realistic", one said. In private, US and European Union officials are sceptical that there is much room for manoeuvre. Although President Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore are keen to secure a reputation for "greenness", they face implacable opposition to higher energy taxes from industry and Congress, which fear the impact on the economy.

**Negotiators want America to compromise, writes Bronwen Maddox**

The talks, which have brought 10,000 negotiators, environmentalists and journalists to the temples and autumn foliage of one of Japan's least-polluted cities, will be a test of whether grand-scale environmental talks are worth the effort. The likely slowdown in global economic growth after this month's

Asian financial crisis may have more success in curbing emissions than any targets drawn up by Kyoto, some officials suggest.

The row between the US and other industrialised countries has deepened over the past three months. The EU claims that it has the moral high ground with its proposal to cut emissions of carbon dioxide by 15 per cent on 1990 levels by 2010. Weekend reports suggested the EU might soften this position to bring it closer to Japan's offer of 5 per cent cuts by 2010.

But both the EU and Japan remain on the other side of a chasm from the US, which will agree only to stabilise emissions by 2010. The US has also attacked the EU for self-indulgence in treating itself as a single bloc, inside which Spain and Portugal will be allowed to raise emissions. EU officials argue that the EU's emissions have been curbed by the collapse of East German industry and recession.

The second stumbling block is America's insistence that



Yorikane Masumoto, Mayor of Kyoto, rides a bicycle through Japan's ancient capital yesterday in an appeal for environmental responsibility

developing countries join in. Their greenhouse emissions will exceed those of developed countries within 20 to 30 years. But China and India have flatly refused to make cuts, saying they are not

responsible for greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere.

Mark Mwandooya of Tanzania, chairman of the developing-country group at the talks, said: "Many of us are

struggling to attain a decent standard of living for our people, yet we are constantly told that we must share in the effort to reduce emissions so industrialised countries can continue to enjoy the benefits

of their wasteful lifestyle." Some developing countries have given cautious support to the US proposal for "joint implementation", a scheme allowing rich countries to get credit for helping to clean up

poorer ones. Alternatively, the US has suggested a "tradeable-permits" scheme to allow dirty countries to buy the right to pollute from cleaner ones.

Letters, page 23



Cardoso: feels affinity with Labour ministers

## Brazilian President sees Blair as his economic model

FERNANDO Henrique Cardoso, who arrives in Britain today for the first state visit by a Brazilian president in more than 20 years, said he feels a special affinity with the Labour Government and will appeal for British investment in his reformed, market economy.

The four-day trip, during which Senhor Cardoso and his wife, Ruth, will spend three nights at Buckingham Palace, will be in marked contrast to the previous state visit. In 1976, General Ernesto Geisel had eggs and rotten tomatoes thrown at his car by London crowds in protest at the human rights violations committed during his military dictatorship. Brazil reverted to democratic rule in 1985. Senhor Cardoso, 66, who took power in 1994, is the architect of his country's recent economic recovery. His monetary policy, based on the indexing of prices with the backing of reserves, has brought inflation under control. He has also launched a huge privatisation plan as part of a series of market reforms.

"I want to appeal to British industry to invest more in our free-market economy, especially in the communications, gas and oil industries which we are selling off, and I know British expertise in this area is very strong," Senhor Cardoso said during an exclusive interview with *The Times* in Brasilia at the

The Cardoso Government is looking for investment from Britain, especially in the gas, oil and communications industries, Gabriella Giamini writes



weekend. Britain is among Brazil's five biggest investors.

Unlike most of his predecessors, Senhor Cardoso is regarded as a "Mr Clean" politician, untainted by the corruption that has characterised Brazilian politics for decades. A sociologist who taught at Harvard University and wrote books reflecting his social democrat con-

victions before he began a political career, the President has recently moved towards the Right and says he identifies with Tony Blair.

"I feel a special admiration for Mr Blair and see him as a model for what I am trying to do here in Brazil," Senhor Cardoso said. "The difference is that Britain had Mrs Thatcher beforehand to trim the

state system. I am having to implement the brutal cutbacks at the same time as putting emphasis on social policies — we have 80 million poor people."

Senhor Cardoso says that he has begun the task of modernising his country, but admits that much remains to be done before his mandate ends in 1999. "I have to focus on reducing the gaping gap between rich and poor. We have started by emphasising primary education and want to get all children into school before the end of next year," he said. "We have also begun land reform and settled more than 300,000 landless peasants in the past three years."

Brazil's richest 10 per cent own 90 per cent of the land; the tentative land reform efforts have begun to redress the imbalance.

However, he added that on health "the results have not been so good. The system is plagued by an enormous bureaucracy and corruption and, despite doubling our expenditure on public healthcare, the service is a nightmare."

On the destruction of the Amazon rainforest, Senhor Cardoso said: "This is a serious problem, but to solve it I need more help from the international community. The Amazon is a vast area and we need financing to install an efficient system to patrol what is going on."

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# Lost treasures of the ancient world

The race is on to preserve one of Eastern Europe's most spectacular archaeological sites and keep the 'antiquities mafia' at bay. Anjana Ahuja reports

For 80 years, archaeologists in the West had heard of the fabulous treasures to be found in a hidden world. Byzantine churches, Greek theatres and Roman ruins all testified to the wealth of human history that lay in Chersonesos, an ancient settlement lying on the edge of Sevastopol, in Ukraine (not to be confused with an ancient region of the same name comprising the modern Galipoli peninsula in Turkey).

Until the end of the Cold War, no outsider had stepped inside this remarkable site, which, unusually, contained the remains of a thriving rural community as well as a city. The reason for secrecy was its strategic location on the Black Sea — Sevastopol houses the headquarters of the Black Sea Fleet and a nuclear submarine base. Finally, in 1992, armed with a warrant signed by both the Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commander of the Black Sea Fleet, Professor Joseph Carter from the Institute of Classical Archaeology at the University of Texas became the first Westerner to join excavations at Chersonesos (the Greek word for peninsula). "It was so exciting," he recalls. "I had thought about this place for 20 years and finally it was there."

The historical riches within surpassed his expectations, but excitement quickly gave way to concern. Although Ukrainian and Russian colleagues had done an admirable job trying to protect the town, word was emerging of several threats to the site. There were rumours

**'Locals pilfer ruins to get building material'**

of an "antiquities mafia" thriving on the spoils gleaned from raiding ancient tombs. Locals had been pilfering ruins to find building materials. Perhaps most worrying of all, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church had stepped forward to lay claim to the land and, therefore, the ancient site. The land belonged to it before the Russian Revolution. Vladimir, the first Christian King of Russia, had been baptised there. The site has belonged to the Archaeology Museum of Chersonesos since 1920. Now the Church, encouraged by a powerful patriarchy in Moscow, wants it back. The dispute has taken a bitter turn — the Church is said to have referred to the director of the museum as "a devil". Professor Carter learnt that the Church's plan was to pull down all "paganist monuments" and allow vast, private development. Every relic constructed in pre-Christian times would be at risk. And with evidence of settlement stretching back to the 5th century BC, a major chunk of this spectacular archaeological site would be in peril. Since then, Professor Carter has waged a crusade to turn Chersonesos into a world-class heritage site to rival such destinations as Pompeii.

Why should Chersonesos be so revered in archaeological circles? According to Professor Carter, it contains important clues about how rural society operated under the Greeks, who arrived in the region in the 5th century BC. "There is nowhere like it in the Greek and Roman world," he says. "It gives us an idea of life outside the ancient cities."



The ruins of Chersonesos, the ancient settlement lying on the edge of Sevastopol, in Ukraine, where Greek, Roman and Byzantine empires flourished

Excavations revealed 400 farm plots each of 60 acres. The lines are still discernible today. The farms grew grapes and grain, and supplied Athens with their produce. Professor Carter says the neat, equal divisions seem to point to an egalitarian society, although others disagree. He says: "When the Greeks started out here in the fifth century BC, this community may well have been egalitarian. However, history tells us that people become greedy. Who knows, the community could have been run by slaves."

The edges of this rural swath are dotted with fortresses. Excavations at the site of one such building by Professor Carter reveal that the fortresses were square, had moats and ramparts, and housed barracks. Contrary to popular thought, he says, rural com-

munities were not poor or socially disadvantaged compared to city-dwellers.

Amid what used to be green fields lies the ancient city, which once contained temples, a mix of luxurious houses and small huts. Layer upon layer of history lies there — Byzantine churches, which once boasted decorative mosaics and painted plasterwork, are built upon Roman ruins perched atop Greek foundations. It records a complicated history — the Greeks were joined by the Romans in the 1st century AD, who built up an army there. The Romans drew back when the Goths and Barbarians flooded in from the Baltic region. All the while the colony remained fairly independent. It even minted its own coins, before the mint was turned into a fortress. The independence ended in 1399,

when the Mongols launched a violent assault and turned Chersonesos into part of the Golden Horde, an outpost of the Mongol Empire. Ancient civilisations rose and fell, leaving a record of how rural life developed over thousands of years.

Mixed with the artefacts are grim reminders of the region's bloodiest chapter in recent history — the Charge of the Light Brigade, during the Crimean War. More recently, bullets and holsters dating back to the Second World War have been recovered.

From his many pilgrimages to the site, Professor Carter has built up a fascinating picture of the estimated 10,000-20,000 people who made up this most northern

Greek colony around the 5th century BC. "From engravings on tombs, we know they cared for their physical appearance," he says. "The women had perfume bottles."

It was a literate and educated society, with doctors and other professionals. There is evidence from the names appearing on gravestones of multiculturalism, with non-Greeks living in relative harmony alongside the Greeks.

Professor Carter and other experts rate Chersonesos as the best preserved Greek colonial territory. The settlement

also sheds light on how people spread throughout the world in ancient times. For these reasons, the site is now one of 100 at-risk monuments listed by the World Monuments Fund in New York (Pompeii and the Taj Mahal also feature). Conservation work, which is also being carried out by Columbia University, is bankrolled by private donations. Other major organisations, such as the World Bank and the United Nations, have also been approached.

The task of preserving the site will cost millions but,

Professor Carter says, it must be done. He says: "We can't just dig and abandon it. These are treasures that people are going to be interested in for years to come. We need to stop the deterioration from weather and vandalism. We need to educate the local people so they do not take the stones away to build their houses. It is an infinite project that will still be continuing when I breathe my last breath. There is so much to do and to find. There is an incredible story to tell, and, as archaeologists, it is our duty to tell it."

Williams syndrome □ Tsetse flies □ Diagnosis of lung disease

## Fairytales come true

FAIRIES, pixies and elves seldom find their way into scientific literature, being more at home in folklore and children's stories. But a Californian professor believes that the "little people" owe their origins to a rare hereditary syndrome that affects one birth in every 20,000.

There are striking similarities between children with Williams syndrome and the "little people". Williams children are known for their unusual faces. They have full cheeks, large eyes, small upturned noses, wide mouths, tiny chins and oval ears. They grow slowly and many remain small.

The condition is caused by a missing stretch of chromosome seven, comprising about 15 genes. The result is children of distinctive appearance who have difficulties in some areas of learning, but are gifted in others.

Professor Howard Lenhoff, of the University of California, decided to investigate. From more than 200 stories and anthologies, he drew up tables of the qualities shared by the fictional characters. He found that they were often depicted as kind, gentle souls, matching behavioural traits in Williams children.

There is anecdotal evidence that

they are musically gifted, have an impressive command of language, and are often vivid storytellers.

The little people of legend are also depicted as enchanting storytellers and musicians. "Legends are often based on real life," says Professor Lenhoff. "And parents of Williams children can see the similarities."

Brain-imaging techniques have begun to reveal details. Some parts of the brain are smaller in Williams children, while others, such as the limbic system and the neocerebellum, are larger. The limbic system is thought to be the seat of emotion, which could help to explain the empathy displayed by Williams children, while there is evidence that the neocerebellum is



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

linked to fluency of language.

Professor Lenhoff, whose daughter has the condition, is conducting a study designed to establish whether Williams people do outshine the rest in musical ability. Of his daughter Gloria, now 42, he says: "We always thought her ability was unusual. She can sing in 25 languages and can memorise a passage of music in half an hour."

The Williams Syndrome Foundation, in Tonbridge, Kent, says some parents might be offended by the theory in the December issue of *Scientific American*. "I can understand the sensitivity, but many parents are delighted that our children may have stimulated such lovely stories," Professor Lenhoff says.

## A nose for trouble



A NEW technique for diagnosing lung disease uses the least regarded of the senses, smell.

An electronic nose developed at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Centre in Philadelphia has identified nine patients who were suffering from pneumonia, distinguishing them from another ten who were not.

The device is the brainchild of Dr William Hanson, head of anaesthesia and critical-care medicine, who described

it at a meeting of the American Society of Anaesthesiologists in San Diego.

The samples were analysed in the device's odour detectors. The analysis takes the form of two-dimensional patterns of dots, representing the volatile materials in the breath and distinguishing those with lung infections.

The technique has several advantages, says Dr Hanson. "Rather than waiting two to three days for the results of a bacterial culture, or relying on chest X-rays that may be inaccurate, doctors can almost instantaneously evaluate their patients for infection," he says. He believes that the nose may be able to detect other diseases.



TSETSE flies use sensitive hairs on their legs to detect the uric acid and amino acids in human sweat. A Dutch team has shown. This finding could be used to make better traps for killing the flies, which spread trypanosomes, the sin-

## Hair-curling lure for a fly

g-cell organisms responsible for sleeping sickness.

The existence of the hairs has been known about for more than 70 years, but in the tsetse fly were thought to be

used only when male and female mated. A team led by Dr Wynand van der Goot van Naters of Groningen University released flies in a glass jar containing a sheet of paper treated with various substances and heated to imitate human skin. The flies bit most eagerly on a surface covered with the amino acids valine and leucine. A touch of uric acid made them bite for twice as long.

The conclusion is that the flies use the scents as a way of finding flesh, and therefore blood. Field trials in Zimbabwe showed that flies would spend twice as long on an insecticide trap baited with uric acid, greatly increasing the chance of killing them.

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# The Labour luvvies' handbook

Fitting into Labour's new Britain means wearing M&S suits, carrying a pager and being tall, writes Siôn Simon

Invitations are now going out for the first new Labour wedding. The new year will see the splicing of Gordon Brown's adviser Ed Balls with Yvette Cooper, the twentysomething MP for Pontefract and Castleford and equally fervent Brown acolyte. Never before have two such pure new Labourites been joined in matrimony. The occasion will be a celebration of everything it means to be new Labour: a delicious backdrop for the most rampant preening rituals of the young new Labour boys and girls. For there is no doubt that new Labour are a breed apart with a set of mores and style of their own.

Any British person can tell you how to be a traditional Tory: you just mince about in an effeminate haircut and a double-breasted Savile Row suit having dinner at Le Caprice and being excessively polite. And old Labour types are equally easy to spot, with their cloth caps, pigeons and thick northern accents.

As Britons, we are instinctively in tune with the metaphysical truth which lies beneath these stereotypes. Far from being the silliness they might seem, such crude portraits are crucial reference points for us all. But with new Labour comes a new species that we must get to know. New Labour having triumphed, new Britain belongs to the new Britons. And if you want to fit in, there are one or two things you ought to know.

First, you have to be tall. 10 Downing Street is now stuffed with the vertically gifted. Tony Blair is a fraction of an inch under, but his press secretary Alastair Campbell, private secretary Jonathan Powell, lead policy wonk David Miliband, and other staffers by the armful, all gangle happily over him. They are so uniformly tall they even subdivide into two types: the spin-doctors tend towards a well-proportioned bigness in the manner of cowboys or professional goalkeepers; while the intellectual types share the old-fashioned, not-very-good-at-sport-but-embarrassingly-keen lanki-

ness which suggests that limb length is inversely proportional to motor skill.

Unfortunately, for the more compact Wannabe new Britons (WNBs) among us, tallness is not optional. It is a minimum entry requirement and an important emblem of the political mission. The underlying assumption is that short persons are simply tall people who did not make the effort. Just as not trying hard enough at school means you don't get to go to Balliol with the new Britons, so failure to pay sufficient attention to your growth results in what is perceived as a distasteful height deficiency.

On the other hand, you will not have to spend a fortune on clothes, particularly if you are a man. More than almost any other area of life, it is in

clothing that new Labour men reveal the asceticism which characterises their politics.

But it is a measure of their self-confidence, and to some extent their style, that you would never guess their suits and shirts came from Marks & Spencer.

Yes, we all know that Gordon Brown had a Tim Everest suit made for his first Budget speech (the press were briefed accordingly). But it is still true that a higher percentage of new Labour men have more St Michael labels pressed against their necks than any similarly aged and salaried group in Britain.

As ever, there is a reason for this preference. It is important for the new Briton to look smart and professional at all times. But new Labour is also a serious, indeed quasi-intellectual, project, and the new Britons are a serious, quasi-intellectual bunch. The expenditure of more than minimal time, effort or money on clothing would be frivolous.

Male WNBs should buy their suits discreetly from M&S, but walk as if they came from Brooks Brothers, the sophisticated transatlantic cousin — American role models are important to new Labour. Women should avoid Marks & Spencer unless they wish to go into Parliament (in which case poorly fitting



New Labour wedding: Brown acolytes Yvette Cooper and Ed Balls



LYNNE SLADKEY



Badly fitting, brightly coloured Marks & Spencer suits are must-haves for women MPs. Right, Tony Blair, who is a fraction under the new Briton requisite 6ft



BIMON WALKER

brightly coloured M&S suits are *de rigueur*). Otherwise, they should invest in a couple of outfits from an obscure local designer no one has heard of.

But the most important purchase for the Wannabe new Briton is the pager. This is by far and away the ultimate new Labour accessory. Techno-gadgets have long been a new Labour weakness. It first reared its head at the time of the intensive campaign to secure support for John Smith's one member one vote plans at Labour's 1993 conference in Brighton.

Admittedly, this was pre-Blair, but it was a new Labour watershed nevertheless. During the frantic process of negotiation, persuasion and coercion, the leader's team began to appear with headsets and tiny microphones, very much after the fashion of the traditional American secret-service agent.

Since then, the techno-fest has become a staple of new Labour life. Downing Street policy wonk James Purnell had his Apple Newton up and running and was whipping it out of his trousers at the slightest provocation almost before they were even invent-

ed. And that Prince Hal of Spin, young Tim Allan, seems to have discreet little earphones permanently appended to his ears, the better to monitor some arcane news broadcast or other.

But the last word in electronic apparatus is undoubtedly the humble message pager. Without exception, every new Briton has one. It you should ever come across someone claiming to be a new Briton who does not have a vibrating companion clipped to their waistband, you will know you have encountered an impostor.

Pagers are the perfect communications device for new Britons because they keep them in contact at all times while allowing them to make the decision as to whether a paged message merits elevation to the status of conversation. Communication is priceless, of course, but time is also precious to this Stakhanovite new breed.

The real purpose of the pager cleaves even more deeply to the heart of new Britons. It enables them, on receipt of that silently vibrating signal, seamlessly to detach the little limpet and, while still apparently in conversation, silently digest the message it bears.



Left, Brown and PR paramour Sarah Macaulay. Right, a tall Campbell with his PM



al's political fixer Alison Clark; and a surfeit of journalists led by Patrick Wintour of *The Observer*.

The normal procedure is to slipstream in behind a member, rather than actually join. Thus Gordon Brown is seen at Soho House discreetly dining with his PR paramour Sarah Macaulay. But it is she who is the member. Personal lack of membership can never hamper a true new Briton's evening aspirations, though, because any group of five or more new Britons will always contain at least one member of Soho House. It's just one of those things.

The reason they do not join is simple. New Britons do not follow trends; they set them. New Labour is about redefining politics and rebuilding the nation anew, after all. So, by the time most of them realised they really ought to be members of Soho House, it was far too late for them to be seen to be joining. In which appalling paradox lie the seeds of Soho House's destruction as new Labour's secret bottle. Sooner or later the new Britons are bound to find somewhere else to go, where they can all join in the fun. But you can't.

• The author is assistant editor of *The Spectator*

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# Past catches up with the Diabolical Lovers

The extravagant lifestyle of a glamorous young couple hid a dark secret. Barry Wigmore reports

**T**he bronzed and the beautiful of Miami Beach. Peter Schmidt and Aureole Martin had everything: youth, good looks, fast cars, a luxurious home, and always plenty of money. Perhaps, at 27 and 28, they were a little young for such success, especially as no one really knew what the couple with the exotic French accents actually did to make their fortune.

But in this sun-kissed Shangri-La of ostentatious houses and secret drug deals, few questions are asked, so for five years, Peter and Aureole slipped easily into the world of millionaires and movie stars.

Every Wednesday night, week in, week out, Martin treated friends to a caviar dinner at the Forcé, one of the most expensive restaurants on Miami Beach, where locals such as Madonna and Sylvester Stallone dine regularly.

Their 17th-floor beachfront condominium was luxuriously furnished, albeit in questionable taste. A \$12,000 suite in soft, white leather took up most of the main living room, with its spectacular views of the ocean. Every room had a big-screen television.

Across the street was the couple's yacht, *The Tempest*, moored at its private dock. Their daytime runabout was a powerful speedboat, and in the garage beneath the apartment block sat their Jaguar sports car.

No one knew that in their native Belgium, Peter and Aureole were known as *les Amants Diaboliques* — the Diabolical Lovers — that their £1 million fortune allegedly had been amassed by life insurance fraud, and that they were wanted by Interpol for murder.

Not content to work like most people, *les Amants Diaboliques* collected spouses, then killed them for the life insurance, it was alleged when

the two shuffled into a US federal court in handcuffs and leg-irons last week. Schmidt married first, in 1992. His bride was Ursula Deschamps, 22. Five months after the wedding, she drowned when her car plunged into a canal as her husband taught her to drive. Schmidt collected about £300,000 in life insurance, but at that stage nobody was suspicious.

The Diabolical Lovers disappeared to Florida, but with their tastes and Miami's expensive toys and attractions, the money did not last. In 1995 Martin returned to Belgium, where she soon met a homely accountant, Marc Van Beers. A few months later, they married. Van Beers did not make it past the honeymoon. They went to Corsica, where their car ran off a cliff. The groom died. His bride sustained minor injuries.

After the incident, Aureole Martin told different versions of what transpired. Assistant US District Attorney Hugo Black told the Miami court.

The Belgian police became suspicious and during their investigation, they learnt that Martin was the beneficiary of several life insurance policies on her husband; at least one of these was obtained without his knowledge.

Martin's behavior convinced Belgian detectives that a crime had been committed. She was hardly subtle, throwing lavish parties and bragging about the killing.

Eventually her stepmother called police to tell them that while Martin was recovering in hospital, she had boasted that she was going to be reunited with Schmidt as soon as possible. Police later learnt that Schmidt had been in Corsica during the ill-fated honeymoon.

The Belgians pushed for Martin to be charged with murder, but the Corsican au-

thorities ruled that the crash was an accident and the grieving widow collected 24 million francs (£500,000), and disappeared again to Florida.

In Belgium, Van Beers's family demanded a more thorough inquiry. In October 1996, his body was exhumed and, it is claimed, a post-mortem examination showed that he had died before the car crash.

An anonymous caller earlier this year helped the investigation. The caller told police that Martin and Schmidt acted together in the murder, and that Schmidt's wife had died in a car crash... just as Van Beers had.

Backtracking over the Corsica "accident," Belgian police concluded that Martin staged it by telling her husband to stop the car because she was feeling ill. When Van Beers stopped, it is claimed that Schmidt and three accomplices ambushed him and beat him to death with baseball bats.

Then they piled his body behind the wheel of the car and, with Martin tightly strapped in the passenger seat, pushed it over the cliff.

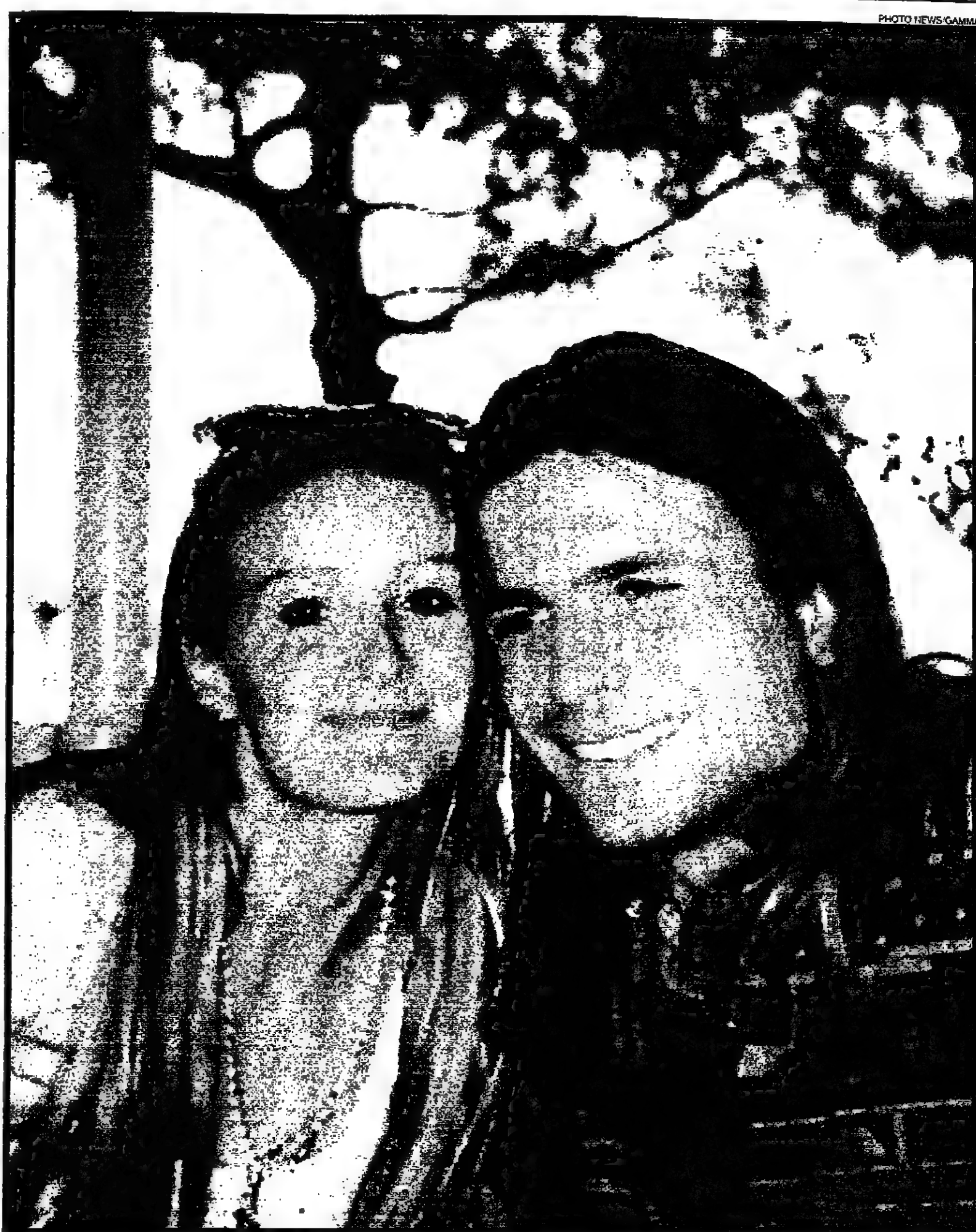
The Belgian detectives then looked into Deschamps' death. They now believe that the 22-year-old newlywed was already dead before the accident; Schmidt had drowned her in the bath before taking her out in the car.

**L**ast May a Belgian court ruled that both "accidents" were murder, and that the low-

US prosecutors say Martin admitted both crimes to Belgian informants. Miami court papers allege one informant told the police: "Aureole Martin stated 'This time Peter and I made a better deal than with Peter's wife, when we received not so much'."

As the months dragged by with no arrest, Belgian officials became impatient. The FBI and every police department in Florida were tied up by a far more high-profile case; the murder of Gianni Versace.

Etienne Van Mol, a police liaison officer at the Belgian



Readily embraced by the jet-setters of Miami Beach, Aureole Martin and Peter Schmidt are now facing charges of murder and insurance fraud

Embassy in Washington, said: "I had to explain to my people that Florida is four times bigger than Belgium. They could not comprehend how many places there are to hide in. Fort Lauderdale, Miami and Palm Beach."

In America, US marshals are responsible for tracking down fugitives — as they did in the film *The Fugitive*. Slowly their net closed on the Diabolical Lovers.

Martin and Schmidt tried to dismantle their lavish lifestyle. At the end of the summer they moved from their condo to a nondescript apartment in the working-class Kendall neighborhood, a suburban sprawl southwest of Miami.

Finally, deputy marshal Mike Moran and his partner, Fort Lauderdale detective Jorge Benitez, zeroed in on Schmidt as he talked on a payphone near Miami International Airport. Instead of the Jaguar, an inexpensive family car. In it, the detectives found \$47,000 in cash and a .357 Magnum pistol.

Although Schmidt would not reveal Martin's whereabouts, several hours later she was found at the highway. She, too, was carrying \$47,000 in cash, and went for nearly two hours after her arrest.

**I**n a brief court appearance, the "deadly lovers" remained silent. Both wore standard blue prison uniforms. Martin appeared pale with no make-up, while Schmidt had shaved off a dark, full beard he had when he was arrested.

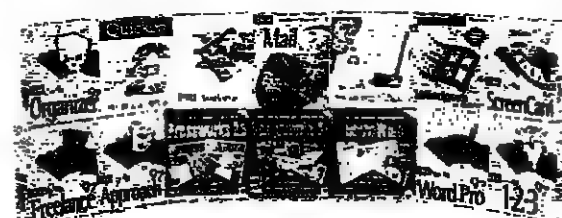
The couple's lawyers say they will fight extradition, and it could take a year to go through the Florida courts.

Belgium can wait. Van Mol, their Interpol man, said: "We are very, very happy. This case was a hot potato. Belgium is a small country, and it has shocked the nation. The Belgian people were in a rage. I am almost 60 years old, and in my 30 years of service, I have never seen a case like it."

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## This week in THE TIMES



## THEATRE

The RSC's *Hamlet* comes to the Barbican with Alex Jennings as the Prince  
OPENS: Thursday  
REVIEW: Saturday



## FILM

Personal loyalty or public duty? Sylvester Stallone must choose in *Copland*  
RELEASED: Friday  
REVIEW: Thursday



## COMEDY

Cultural icon Howard Marks muses at the Shepherd's Bush Empire  
PERFORMANCE: Friday  
REVIEW: Monday



## MUSIC

The talented young violinist Sarah Chang performs at the Barbican  
CONCERT: Sunday  
REVIEW: Next week

A Birmingham gallery has made some stunning purchases. Richard Cork reports

# Three snips for the Barber

Spaciously hung in a handsome gallery at Birmingham University is the choicest small collection of paintings in Britain, property of the Barber Institute of Fine Arts. Now, 65 years after it was founded, the Barber is basking in an *annus mirabilis*. With only limited funds at his disposal, its director, Richard Verdi, has made three outstanding acquisitions. They amount to a triple ace, ensuring that a visit to the Barber is even more rewarding than it was before.

The most surprising purchase is an extraordinary art-historical discovery. When the youthful André Derain visited London in 1905 and again the following year, his eruptive views of the Thames and Hyde Park helped to change the course of modern painting. Bold, energetic and blazing with gorgeous colour contrasts, they can be ranked among the most radiant achievements of the Fauves, the "wild beasts" of early 20th-century art.

Until now, no portraits by Derain were thought to have survived from his London sojourns. But a painting of Bartolomeo Savona has just emerged from a private collection in Sicily. Quietly owned by Savona's family ever since 1906, it has been bought for £400,000 by the Barber with the aid of £300,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund and a National Art Collections Fund grant of £50,000.

The portrait was produced as a thank-you present. When Derain stayed in lodgings at Mrs Bradley's Holland Park house during the early months of 1906, he made friends with Savona. Luckily, the young Italian was a language teacher from Palermo who was studying English in London. So when Derain found himself plagued by toothache, Savona acted as his interpreter during a visit to the local dentist. Hugely grateful, Derain painted his Sicilian saviour in three brief headlong sessions, each lasting a mere 20 minutes.

Like all of Derain's finest 1906 pictures, it is a bravura performance. Savona's alert, companionable features are incisively defined. Despite the formality of his crisp wing-collar and waistcoat, his spirited temperament is conveyed with engaging panache. The jacket seems to surge and buckle with energy, while the sitter's restless locks of hair are enlivened by startling strokes of blue and red.

Derain was proud enough of the portrait to sign it, very prominently, in vehement orange. And his exuberance bursts out even more forcefully on the wall behind, where London's cold winter light is replaced by a lemon-yellow warmth redolent of Savona's Mediterranean home.

The Derain portrait is especially welcome at the Barber, where 20th-century art is hard to find. Before 1967, the institute's trust deed did not allow the gallery to acquire pictures painted after 1899. So the Derain arrival plays a vital role in the current attempt to build up a proper survey of modern painting.

Older periods are far more comprehensively represented in the collection. But even there, gaps remain. Hitherto, the Barber possessed only one still-life painting. Now, with the purchase of a resplendent canvas by Evaristo Baschenis, it has secured a masterpiece by Italy's most outstanding 17th-century still-life artist. Bought from a Swiss-based trust for £1.2 million, the painting has been obtained entirely from the Barber's own funds. The price will be paid in instalments over the next four years, but Baschenis's imposing image is well worth the sacrifice.



André Derain's *Portrait of Bartolomeo Savona*, painted in 1906: an "extraordinary art-historical discovery"

Little-known in Britain, where no other museum owns his work, he excelled at painting musical instruments. The Barber canvas, executed around 1660, brings together a violin, a Spanish guitar, a lute and a spinetino bearing the artist's signature. They are all depicted with consummate precision and a feeling for essential form that appeals directly to sensibilities shaped by abstract art today.

But it is also a meditation on transience. The strangely metallic folds of the curtain look as if they might be released at any moment and fall heavily across the objects. An orange rests next to the violin, symbolising pleasure yet in danger of falling from its perch. And the futility of pleasure is reinforced by the violin's broken string.

As for the layer of dust painted so persuasively on the lute, it refers to passing time and the inevitability of decay. Still life becomes, in Baschenis's virtuosic picture, a presentiment of death. But its grandeur remains immensely satisfying, and the artist's loving familiarity with the instruments, made in his native Lombardy by Antonio Stradivari and others, turns the painting into a musical celebration as well.

The third and most expensive of the Barber's prizes is also bound up with music. Anthony Van Dyck's portrait of François Langlois was bought by private treaty from Viscount Cowdray. Acquired jointly with the National Gallery in London, it cost £4.9 million. Once again, the Heritage Lottery Fund played a decisive part, paying just over £1.8 million of the Barber's half-share.

The price reflects the immense attractiveness of the painting. Van Dyck could often be aloof or melancholy, particularly in his male portraits. But here, his close friendship with the art dealer Langlois encouraged him to indulge in irresistible vivacity.

A holiday mood prevails. Re-joining in his subject's skill as an amateur musician, Van Dyck paints Langlois as a Savoyard, a wandering Arcadian shepherd with hound in attendance. Clutching a small bagpipe called a musette, he stops playing for an instant. Something has diverted his attention. Van Dyck catches the spontaneity of Langlois's smile, as he twists his head towards the invisible source of amusement.

The result is the opposite of a stiff,

posed portrait. It reveals a streak of mischief in a man who, among other occupations, purchased paintings for Charles I. Negotiating on behalf of such a voracious, competitive collector must have called for cunning as well as charm, and Van Dyck's painting shows Langlois at his most engaging. He seems capable of assuming many guises, and the portrait's theatricality helps to explain his success as a much-travelled go-between in the courts of Europe.

But Van Dyck's skilful brush also ensures that Langlois's musicianship is more than a pose. His fingers close on the musette's pipe with dexterity and precision. In a second or two, he will surely resume playing his instrument and dance off into the freshness of the countryside beyond.

Although the three acquisitions can now be seen at the Barber, both the Baschenis and the Derain will travel to London in January for the Royal Academy's major exhibition *The Art Treasures of England: the Regional Collections*. But they belong to Birmingham, and the city has every reason to be proud.

The Barber Institute at the University of Birmingham (0121-414 7333) is open Mon-Sat (10am-5pm), Sun (2-5pm)

## Britpop's dead. Long live Britpop

AH, THE irony of it all! Just as the obituaries for Britpop are being written and mourners are muttering under their breath how they never liked it much anyway, one of its foremost figureheads swoops into town and plays such a blinder that the golden goose appears to be anything but cooked.

And yet it's more complex than that. Under the guidance of guitarist Graham Coxon, Blur themselves were ostensibly the first to switch roles from flag-bearers to pallbearers. Absconding to Iceland, they recorded the distinctly un-British *Blur* album, and they released it as the lead-off single, a tongue-in-cheek Beatles pastiche that was seen by some as a none too subtle swipe at Oasis's fixation with all things Lennon and McCartney. The music and tabloid press, who used to wet their Union Jack boxer shorts every time the Blur/Oasis debate reared its tiresome little head, became resentful of Albarn, Coxon and Co for daring to deviate from, and mock, the nation's glorious cultural lineage.

But the media have been made to eat their sour grapes. The previously sceptical Americans were converted with the seminal punk-pop stomper, *Song 2*. And having recently finished a highly successful tour of Australia and South-East Asia, Blur are about to weave their way once again through the big arenas of their native land. To judge by this preface in Dublin, it will be a victory march.

*Girls and Boys* and *Song 2*

## POP

ALBARN, Chestnut-est like grin and trademark Olympian roof-raising leers contrast with bassist Alex James's statuesque cool — the daffling cigarette, the legs defiantly apart — while Coxon's guitar kicks out the jams with abrasive abandon.

No longer a band in denial, the set as a whole sees Blur acknowledge every stage of their career: early pop nuggets like *She's So High* and *There's No Other Way* rub shoulders with more obscure songs like *Colin* from *Modern Life Is Rubbish*.

So reports of Blur's death are greatly exaggerated; in fact, they've never sounded more alive.

NICK KELLY

## Happy mundane

THERE have been various hospital visits, personnel changes and other colourful dramas since Black Grape played their first London gig two-and-a-half years ago. But the air of loutish anarchy that surrounds the group is deceptive, and although their show last Thursday bore the usual outward marks of impromptu bonhomie, it was actually a disciplined and tightly scripted affair.

Wearing a thick, black puffer coat which he kept buttoned up from start to finish, Shaun Ryder looked more like a window cleaner than a pop star. Whether standing, with one hand in his pocket or sitting on the monitor speakers in front of the drums, he was flanked at all times by his partners in rap, Paul "Kernit" Leveridge and Carl "Psycho" McCarthy. Like characters hanging around on a street corner or in a pub the three of them batted lines of patter back and forth with a goofy nonchalance belied only by the sheafs of lyric sheets at Ryder's feet.

Behind them, the group's four instrumentalists worked in a contrastingly anonymous yet fiercely diligent manner. At the musical heart of the matter was the wonderfully fluent bass playing of Danny Williams and the meaty drumming of Ged Lynch. It

was their efforts every bit as much as the front line's rabble-rousing vocales that were responsible for the outbursts of massed, pogoing among the overwhelmingly male audience, particularly on the upbeat grooves of *Squashy* and *Tell Me Something*.

But the image of raucous abandon could not entirely disguise the slightly routine feel of this performance. They certainly missed the presence of Bez, their bug-eyed dancer and cheerleader who has left the group, apparently to become a man of letters. And, despite the undoubted dance-floor appeal of *Rubber Band*, *Marbles* and *Get Higher*, these new numbers offered little in the way of advancement or variation on the group's original one-dimensional blueprint.

Initial sales of Black Grape's new album, *Stupid, Stupid*, have been surprisingly disappointing and, as Ryder found to his cost with Happy Mondays, a non-stop party can be a great idea to begin with, but is a difficult beast to maintain in the medium to long term.

DAVID SINCLAIR

| OPERA & BALLET                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | THEATRES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | COMEDY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | THEATRES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | COMEDY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | THEATRES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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# An amazing journey — or just a hoax?

David Abulafia on the tall tale of an ancient traveller

Trumpheted by its publishers as "one of the most important manuscripts ever discovered", *The City of Light* purports to be the travel diary of a Jewish Italian merchant, Jacob d'Ancona, who in 1270 — some four years before Marco Polo — reached the southern shores of China. Incomparably more vivid than the surprisingly tedious, and possibly tendentious, text of Marco Polo, it conjures up images of 13th-century lowlife and high ideals. But is it a hoax?

David Selbourne, the historian and political philosopher, who has translated and edited the text, claims that the manuscript was secretly handed to him, wrapped in a swathe of 17th-century silk, by a citizen of Urbino. Having spent several years translating and editing it, he hotly defends its authenticity. But, unless a medieval manuscript can be produced, the text must be judged on internal evidence. And, though enormously entertaining, it contains egregious historical errors.

Most people who have expressed a view have been experts on China. My own perspective is that of someone who has written about the Adriatic port of Ancona itself, about the Jews of Italy and about the great Levant trade that linked Italy to the Middle East and tapped into the spice trade coming from the East Indies. From this angle, the long-suffering Rabbi Jacob is not a credible figure.

Ancona had pretensions to becoming a trading rival of its far greater neighbour Venice; indeed, Venice suppressed voyages from Ancona to the rich ports of the East, just at the time when Jacob is supposed to have travelled there. In the end Venice faced Ancona and its ally, Genoa, in open war on the streets of the great crusader city of Acre, in modern Israel.

The result was that the Genoese were forced out of Acre, which Venetians flatly refused to make sure they would not return. It is, therefore, incredible that Jacob reports on Acre in exactly the opposite terms to what is known to have happened, so that the city seems with the merchants of Genoa and Ancona just when they were being kept out.

Such errors, of the sort a contemporary could not possibly make, abound. Forging ahead through the Middle East, Jacob mentions merchants from Italy in Iraq and Aden, at a time when journeys by merchants to these destinations were out of the question. The glory days of the Jewish spice traders based in Yemen, acting as intermediaries between Egypt and the Indies, were long past. The Muslims ensured that only Muslim merchants (and certainly not Rabbi Jacob) could pass through the Red Sea.

Jacob tells, too, of finely fitted galleys with agreeable staterooms setting out on the Indian Ocean, owned by a certain Aaron of Barcelona, the "great Jew of Aragon". Such a figure can easily be shown to be a figment of the imagination, following non-existent trade routes on impossible ships.

The oddest feature of the text, however, is the description of social evils presented both by Jacob himself and by Piacino, a conservative dignitary of the Chinese city of Zaitun. We should read this as an invective against 20th-century habits (indeed, Selbourne tells us that Piacino's discussion influenced his own book on *The Principle of Duty*). Zaitun is given over to uncontrolled sexual freedom. We are repeatedly told that young women walk around in immodest, revealing clothes (among them many lesbians), engaging liberally in sexual intercourse. "Some women give their bodies freely to all, believing that she who has had more men is more pleasing than the rest." Homosexual acts are presented as entirely normal, equal to heterosexual love, an attitude that Piacino deplors. Transvestites abound.

Single mothers are a common feature of society; slandering has become a craze among young women. Older women are obsessed with preserving the appearance of youth, "applying costly salves each day to their skin so that it may remain tender and soft". The streets of Zaitun have become dangerous because they are full of drug addicts and muggers. Fashions in music have changed for the worse, and all one hears is raucous sounds from Hell. Euthanasia is freely practised, and no one mourns at funerals. Children are allowed to do as they please, and the view is taken by supporters of the new order that they should be free to pursue their education at whatever speed they wish.

Zaitun even has its own equivalent of pop stars and supermodels: "So depraved are the citizens of Zaitun that the most beautiful of the harlots are considered as goddesses by both men and women, who follow them as they go, while the young seek to copy not only the manner of their clothes or the colours with which they adorn their faces, but the very sound of their voices when they speak or sing."

It is a picture of a society teetering on the brink of the abyss, ignoring the terrible fate that awaits it (the Mongols are only a little way over the horizon), while it immerses itself in hedonism. Yet it also contains an account of our own society, deeply hostile to modern trends.

The highly coloured account of Jacob's exploration of this new Sodom and Gomorrah culminates when he unwillingly finds himself watching a live sex show. Nonetheless, he still revels in their exercise of power and their realisation how little Westminster matters compared with interest groups, the media, and so on. Moreover, the switch to holding Prime Minister's Questions once a week has meant that Mr Blair has seemed more distant. Admittedly, he spends time in the House on Wednesday afternoons. But he has not voted once since the Commons returned five weeks ago.

But the real reason that the Government has had its own way is the feebleness of the Opposition — or, to be precise, the Tories, since the expanded band of Liberal Democrats have been quite effective. The current Tory performance is the worst I have ever seen, worse even than that of Labour under Michael Foot, who at

least had several heavyweights such as Denis Healey on the front bench. William Hague is more victim than cause of this malaise. Of course, he is inexperienced, has a mixed bag of close advisers, and has made some big errors, notably over Europe, which have both further threatened the party's long-term electoral chances. But he has been a confident public performer. Mr Hague has also been bold and right in his proposed shake-up of the Tory organisation. But his poll ratings are abysmal. This can be put down to his unfamiliarity, but the Tories have a real problem in getting the public to know, like and respect Mr Hague.

The Tories' main difficulty is that they remain tarnished in most voters' minds. The Blackpool conference failed to draw a line under the past

When high-minded moralists are in full cry with the law to support them, let the liberal take cover

# We have no right to hound huntsmen

which now makes far greater profits out of drugs than it ever did from drink.

In each of these cases, high-minded people used the criminal law to impose their morality on those who disagreed with them in each case the attempt failed, but not before it had done great damage. The Parliament of 1643 failed to prevent people singing in church or praying to Mary; the Puritans of Massachusetts failed to stamp out adultery, which to this day is not unknown in Boston; the Criminal Law Amendment Act failed to stamp out homosexual conduct; the Eighteenth Amendment failed to stop people drinking. Yet the statues and the stained glass were destroyed, the farmer's wife who slept with the handyman was hanged, Wilde did suffer in Reading Gaol and the Mafia did get to organise American crime.

In all these cases there were two separate arguments. The first argument was on the moral question itself and the second on the appropriate legal response. The Puritans were entitled to argue that statues of saints could encourage superstition, or even that they amounted to the idolatry forbidden in the Ten Commandments. These were serious issues for them. Yet even if they had been right, they would not have been justified in passing a law to destroy works of great beauty, or in creating a criminal offence, punishable by imprisonment, of using the Book of Common Prayer. It is the same with adultery,

homosexuality and alcohol. People are entitled to have their own moral views; where they go wrong is when they make actions criminal because they disapprove of them.

This is the mistake of the 411 Members of the House of Commons who voted to make hunting with hounds a criminal offence. There are two possible views of the morality of hunting, which were put with great force by two splendidly independent-minded women, Kate Hoey and Ann Widdecombe, each speaking against

William Rees-Mogg

the majority of opinion in her own party. The moral case against hunting is straightforward — it is that it involves avoidable cruelty to animals. The moral defence is that it involves less cruelty and less danger of leaving animals crippled but alive than the alternative methods of culling — the gun, the trap or poison. Hounds bad, guns good, is a hard case for the 411 to argue. One weakness of the anti-hunting case in the debate was that its proponents were not prepared to universalise it. Other field sports, shooting and fishing, are just as cruel but are not to be prohibited. Indeed, shooting and

fishing are morally more objectionable. Foxes are wild animals, predators on the farm stock, whose numbers have to be reduced by some means or another. Pheasants and some fish are bred to be killed for sport; there is no need to cull them, as they would not be there if the sport did not call them into existence. If it is cruel to shoot a pheasant — and it is — it is wrong to breed a pheasant in order to shoot it. From the moral point of view it is absurd to distinguish killing on horseback from killing in gulleys, or killing with dogs from killing with fishhooks.

I doubt whether any of us who are not vegetarians can logically distinguish our own conduct from that of foxhunters. Anyone who enjoys a plate of spring lamb, with peas, new potatoes and mint sauce, has taken the moral responsibility for the chain of events that took the lamb out of the field and put it on the plate. An abattoir lies behind the chef, even in the best of restaurants. I respect the absolutist argument that the human species should never willingly cause suffering to animals, but I do not accept the argument that hunting with hounds is a unique form of causing suffering which should be made criminal, while shooting and fishing are still acceptable, and eating meat is unquestioned.

Only two Labour MPs, Llin Golding and Kate Hoey, voted against the Bill. That raises the suspicion that new Labour may prove as authoritarian as old Labour, though it has

changed the subjects it is authoritarian about. The Liberal Democrat vote was more interesting: they split 27 to 14 in favour of the Bill. This naturally reflects the communities they represent: Liberals from the deep countryside tended to vote against the Bill, while urban and suburban Liberals tended to vote for it. It also partly reflected the split in Liberal Democratic ideology: some Liberals are little "T" liberals, but most of them nowadays are not.

The core of historic liberalism is that adults should not be coerced in making moral choices. This was the central belief of the founder of liberal philosophy, John Locke. One finds it whether he is writing about education or psychology, political rights or toleration.

Moral choices are for the individual, not for the State, provided that they do not damage other members of society. This was the doctrine Thomas Jefferson put into the Declaration of Independence; it is the doctrine of John Stuart Mill's essay on "Liberty". A liberal respects the consciences of other people. An authoritarian, of Left or Right, imposes his conscience on other people.

This rule must itself be subject to the need to protect children as well as to protect the interests of other adults. For a liberal, the difficulty of the abortion issue lies in the conflict between the right to choose of the mother and the right to life of the baby. We do not live in a society which accepts an absolute right to life to all animals, though the Jews do so in India.

Given that our public morality is both partial and inconsistent, we should not impose it on citizens through the criminal law. It would be as monstrous to imprison Camilla Parker Bowles for hunting with the Beaufort as it was to send Oscar Wilde to Reading Gaol.

# You aren't listening, Mr Hague

The Tories are still ignoring the message of the voters, says Peter Riddell

The House of Commons came alive on Friday for the first time since the election. The chamber was packed for five hours, several memorable speeches were made and, at the end, 85 per cent of MPs voted. How different from the normal lacklustre days at Westminster. Of course, hunting provokes fierce passions, but Friday was exceptional primarily because it had little to do with the conventional party battle, which is largely lifeless since the May 1 convulsion. The Government retains an authority, and the Opposition a lack of credibility, because of what voters decided seven months ago.

The Government has not yet really been put under pressure. Until the rumblings over single-parent benefits, new Labour MPs have been noted mainly for naive zealotry, as some of their toadying questions to Tony Blair show. Most ministers are still reveling in their exercise of power and their realisation how little Westminster matters compared with interest groups, the media, and so on. Moreover, the switch to holding Prime Minister's Questions once a week has meant that Mr Blair has seemed more distant. Admittedly, he spends time in the House on Wednesday afternoons. But he has not voted once since the Commons returned five weeks ago.

But the real reason that the Government has had its own way is the feebleness of the Opposition — or, to be precise, the Tories, since the expanded band of Liberal Democrats have been quite effective. The current Tory performance is the worst I have ever seen, worse even than that of Labour under Michael Foot, who at

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The Tories' main difficulty is that they remain tarnished in most voters' minds. The Blackpool conference failed to draw a line under the past

Every time Michael Howard, Sir Brian Mawhinney and other former ministers speak, people think of the last Government. Sir Brian was more convincing on Friday in putting the libertarian case against a ban on hunting than he has ever been talking about crime. Some spokesmen, such as John Maples and Francis Maude, who were not in the last Parliament, have been more convincing.

The absence of such past associations is not enough. Iain Duncan Smith had no part in the last administration. Promoted straight to the Shadow Cabinet, he is for ever seizing on press reports of ministerial splits and the like to claim in strident

terms that the Government is in chaos or has made another U-turn. But that is adolescent politics. Mr Duncan Smith, a man of charm and intelligence, should think more before he speaks.

John Redwood tends to be singled out as one of the few Shadow Cabinet successes. He is certainly energetic and has landed some punches. At times, his wide range of activities makes it seem as if he is still running for the leadership. But not only can his public appearances often appear gauche, as at last week's *Spectator* awards, but his last, even hourly, comments often lack much sense of context, or proportion.

The party is also handicapped by having so few MPs, the relative inactivity of some veteran backbenchers and former ministers, and

the inexperience of the new intake. The latter includes several bright and promising MPs, but some, particularly from safe seats in the South, are still displaying the cocky bumptiousness that so put off voters in May.

The Tories' tone is wrong. It is shrill, and seems like opposition for the sake of it, when the public is still giving the Government the benefit of the doubt. Of course, the Tories should criticise flaws in Labour's approach. But they will be persuasive only when they show signs of realising what went wrong, as is recognised by some shrewder strategists involved in the policy review.

For instance, one reason why the Tories lost is that they failed to offer policies to deal with the social dislocation and insecurities created by globalisation, privatisation and the opening up of free markets. Ministers in the Major Government never understood that talking about the "enterprise culture of Europe" was not enough. Social cohesion also matters. Maintaining the right balance will be one of the hardest tasks for governments over the next decade, as President Clinton's recent rebuff on trade negotiations shows.

The Tories should also be more positive over constitutional reform. They have understandable worries about the implications of Labour's plans in destabilising current arrangements. But that should be an opportunity to revive the eminently Tory theme of "checks and balances" to limit the power of the executive and Whitehall, as both Robert Alexander and Chris Patten have recently urged. After so many years of neglect, Sir Norman Fowler has initiated a review of local government. The Tories should be challenging Labour in the debate, rather than reacting.

The passage of time, and disenchantment with the Government, will give the Opposition its opportunity. But the Tories will only seize it if they recognise — as the Blairites did in the early 1990s — that merely acting like an Opposition is not enough. Reinventing themselves as a potential party of government is essential.

# Fowled up

WHAT is Sir Norman Fowler up to? As Shadow Environment Secretary, you might assume he is defending the countryside against roads and houses. It is hard to tell. He farms out responsibility for both issues to his deputies, Tim Yeo and Chris Chope — to the chagrin of some of his constituents in Sutton Coldfield. The first toll motorway, the Birmingham northern relief road, is about to cut a grim swath through the area.

Swampy and fellow "eco-warriors" are already sharpening their trowels, but Sir Norman does not speak up on the issue. It was last raised at Environment Questions in the Commons on July 29 — and Sir Norman stayed silent.

Sir Norman says he does not speak as a Shadow minister because of his directorship of Aggregate Industries, which makes money from roads. "I can still speak in my role as MP, I just choose not to. The issue has already been decided by a public inquiry." Nor does he pipe up on the Government's plans to build more than four million new homes. This, he says, is not because he is a chairman of the National House Building Council, a consumer protection body set up by the construction industry, but because the issue "falls naturally within Tim Yeo's portfolio".

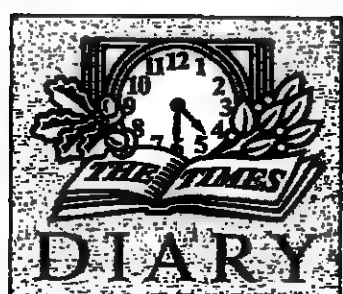
Green types are alarmed. Jonathan Dimbleby, former president of the Council for the Protection of



Shhh — Fowler, Muppet Dave

Rural England, says: "It is important that the debate is not restricted." But, more alarmingly, Swampy and his followers are cross. One, a Mr Muppet Dave, says: "This road will wreck havoc. Where does Sir Norman stand?"

● New Tories, new naughtiness. One of the stalls at the Conservative Women's Conference last week included a fetching array of novelties, including bottom soap (pink).



rude pasta and "grow your own willies", whatever they may be.

Reignited

POOR Tessa Jowell's torture is far from complete. Tomorrow the Health Minister will again be made scapegoat for the Government's tobacco U-turn, when she defends the move before the European Standing Committee B. Every Member can join this parliamentary firing squad, and the Tories are preparing their ammunition. Said one salivating Tory: "The whips are urging everyone to attend. It should be quite an ambush."

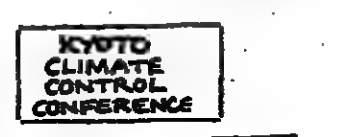
● MICHAEL PORTILLO's political comeback is temporarily on hold. The Tories' leader-in-exile was to give various television inter-

views last weekend to set out his new political philosophy — but he pulled out to attend a family get-together in Spain.

Talent Scout

JOHN MAJOR's old Scout troop is facing closure. So the 1st Old Maldens, where he bob-a-jobbed in his youth, has asked the former Prime Minister to whip out his woggle and help.

The sound of dyb-dyb-dybding has echoed around the hut since the



"We have formulated our response to global warming"

1940s, but Scout leader John Eggt wants to hang up his baggy khaki shorts after 25 years. For the past couple of years he has searched, without joy, for a replacement — so he is calling out to Mr Major, once a keen young Cub in the group.

"I am hoping for a miracle," he says. "I had thought someone would come forward from the ranks of our former Scouts." Major is out of the country, and has yet to hear the cries of help, but his family sympathises. "John will be very sad," says his sister, Pat Dessey, who remembers the young Major grabbing his cap and scurrying off to Akela. "I blame political correctness." Terry Major-Ball is less nostalgic. "I didn't join a Scout group, but then John was always allowed out more than me."

Cat calls

FIRST fat cats, now big cats. The Government has been asked to investigate a mysterious four-legged beast seen prowling the Norfolk Broads.

Keith Simpson, the Conservative Member for Norfolk Mid, is so concerned by reports of a "large cat" stalking local wildlife he is tabling a question to Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, asking: "What responsibility does the Government

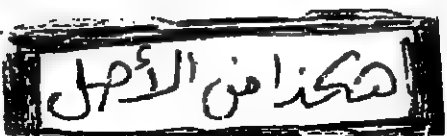


have for monitoring sightings of big cats?" "I thought it was an old wives' tale, but there have been numerous sightings of a very big cat," says Mr Simpson, himself rather obscure. So what exactly is Norfolk's answer to the Beast of Bodmin? "It might be some kind of puma," guesses the former Sandhurst lecturer, who is used to dealing with fierce animals — he advised

Tom King when he was Defence Secretary.

● Warming news reaches me from the Commons, where the Non-Prof-it Making Members' Clubs Group has just held its AGM. Dennis Turner, treasurer, proudly announced a successful year. It made more than £1,000 profit.

JASPER GERARD







## NO FAULT OR FLAW

Lord Irvine's hauteur does not invalidate his strategy

The office of Lord Chancellor is the most curious in the Cabinet. He is at once the head of the judiciary, the peer who presides over the upper chamber in the legislature and, as the Cabinet minister responsible for law reform, at the heart of the executive. He sits at the centre of the British constitution as an historic exception to the democratic doctrine of the separation of powers. The Lord Chancellor's position was an eroded anomaly when Montesquieu drew up the dividing lines for a rational constitution, and for a modernising Government his office might seem ripe for reform than other less-coveted corners of the State.

This Government's Lord Chancellor, however, far from shedding responsibilities, has been stuffing his Woolpack with new portfolios. Lord Irvine of Lairg's ambitions and reach have unsettled some, including Cabinet colleagues and the press, but as our legal correspondent reports today he is nothing abashed. Lord Irvine has mounted a spirited defence of his responsibilities in tandem with a call for other colleagues to become less possessive about their departmental privileges. His stance may seem, at first sight, an arrogant one for a politician who owes his position to patronage rather than election but Lord Irvine's arguments are in this case powerfully made and, for the most part, persuasive.

Lord Irvine is not a man burdened with false humility. His comparison of his own position to Thomas Wolsey's, his declaration that the Lord Chancellor is "once again one of the principal advisers of the political leader of the country" and his judicious verdict that "I think this is as it should be" indicate that, whatever the meek may have inherited in New Britain, it does not include the Woolpack.

Lord Irvine's detractors may hear in these words an echo of *Iolanthe* when another Lord Chancellor defended the dignities of his office: "The Law is the True embodiment. Of everything that's excellent. It has no kind of fault or flaw. And I, my Lords, embody the Law." Yet, although the comparison to Cardinal Wolsey suggests Lord Irvine has something still to learn about hubris, the

thrust of his case deserves to be heeded. The strong meat of his message does not need to be so richly sauced.

The concentration of powers which the Lord Chancellor enjoys can make government better co-ordinated. It is only the constitutional quietism of Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, and the concentration on legal reform of Lord Mackay of Clashfern, which have created the impression that the post is a Gothic outhouse of government rather than an engine for administrative efficiency. Defending his chairmanship of the "Star Chamber", Lord Irvine points out that the holder of his office is well-suited to arbitrate between colleagues because he himself has no further political ambitions. That distance from the greasy pole is powerful justification for the range of responsibilities he currently enjoys. The intellectual self-confidence he also enjoys ensures that he can challenge bad arguments within the Government better than others with an eye on advancement.

The range of powers he deploys, as Lord Irvine points out, has a "logical coherence". The Lord Chancellor is the obvious figure to be this administration's "constitutional czar" as well as conduit between judiciary and government. Some aspects of the Government's constitutional reform programme are potentially destructive of this country's balanced settlement. Some of Lord Irvine's own thoughts on press regulation are positively dangerous. But this particular reform that Lord Irvine argues for on our front page is plain Scots common sense.

The Lord Chancellor wants to end the "turf wars" between civil service departments. The practice Lord Irvine identifies of ministerial briefs marked "not to be disclosed" to Cabinet colleagues smacks of insecurity, a need to use secrecy and surprise to advance a case rather than candid merit. The willingness of some ministers to argue for the vested interests of their departmental bureaucracy impedes the coherent dispatch of government business and Lord Irvine is right to want to knock heads together. He must just take care that his own does not grow too big in the process.

## THE CZECH THATCHER

Vaclav Klaus's policies deserve to outlast his political eclipse

The free-market convictions of Vaclav Klaus have dominated the Czech political agenda ever since the Communist Party succumbed, almost precisely eight years ago, to the Velvet Revolution. On the international scene, Mr Klaus may have been the "other Vaclav", a second fiddle to President Vaclav Havel's silky violin. But at home, first as Finance Minister and since 1992 as post-communist Europe's longest-serving Prime Minister, his decisions have been those that counted. His shoes will be hard to fill.

His unwilling departure yesterday from political life comes at the end of a year in which his grip over the fractious government coalition has clearly been weakening. The country has serious economic troubles, many of them attributable to policy failures that this supremely self-confident man took too long to acknowledge and remedy. Because Czechs believed Mr Klaus's premature boast, back in the boom year of 1995, that the country had come through the pain of transition and was now a "normal" market economy, rising unemployment and a return to austerity budgets have had a shattering effect on public confidence both in politics and in capitalism itself. Trade unions protesting against cuts led this month's anti-government demonstrations in Prague, the largest since 1989.

Like Margaret Thatcher, whose steely Central European equivalent he is, Mr Klaus made as many enemies inside his party as outside it as he frogmarched the Czech Republic towards a market economy. Like her, he fell victim to a palace coup, engineered by close colleagues with the open support of the President himself. But unlike Baroness Thatcher, the immediate cause of his departure was a political funding scandal to which Mr Klaus insists that he

was not privy, but which is explosive because the donor, a businessman, won the privatisation tender for a Czech steelworks.

To many Czechs this affair, relatively minor in itself, symbolises the mismanagement, insider dealing and white-collar crime that have flawed the controversial mass privatisation strategy pushed through by Mr Klaus between 1992 and 1994. In theory, this transferred state assets to individual shareholders. But in practice, bank-controlled investment funds rapidly established control over them. In many cases, they exploited lax regulation to strip assets; outright fraud robbed 750,000 people — 7 per cent of Czechs — of their savings.

Mr Klaus was too slow to see that free markets need rules. This year, bad loans piled up as growth faltered, partly because steep wage rises had priced the country out of international markets. But it was only after foreign confidence in the Czech economy and currency collapsed in May that his Government started remedial action.

Having demanded and obtained the resignation of the entire Government, President Havel is attempting to form a new one from the existing centre-right coalition. That would be better by far than bringing forward the 2000 elections, which could be won by an unpalatable coalition of Socialists and the ultra-Right. The most promising next Prime Minister would be Ivan Filip, the young Finance Minister who clearly understands that to surmount its current difficulties the Czech Republic needs more, not less, fiscal, welfare and free-market reforms. Mr Klaus's errors have been those of implementation, not of strategy; in rejecting his acerbic leadership, the country's politicians must not depart from the modernising message he has so formidably struggled to instil.

## DR ARNOLD'S DISCIPLES

Montserratian children can teach English schools a lesson

Duty, devotion and discipline, the stern Victorian values that once were strictly enforced by plume-hatted governors on millions of Britain's colonial subjects, live on in the little island societies where the Union Flag still flies. To the astonishment of teachers, parents and red-faced education officials, the children who fled with their families from the volcano-stricken island of Montserrat have brought with them to school in England a set of old-fashioned virtues and attitudes that have long disappeared from Britain's inner cities.

They are attentive, respectful and hard-working. Scrubbed and neatly dressed, they arrive at school on time, are properly grounded in the three Rs and respond to traditional teaching methods. In short, their extraordinary attitude has made them an educational problem. Most are at least a year ahead of their British classmates, and distraught teachers are unable to hold them back. It is all so unexpected. The Caribbean, as every jettisoner knows, is a lazy paradise where holiday sun and indolence mix in equal measure. It is the last place a Briton would look to find an old-fashioned work ethic or the lingering influence of Dr Arnold.

Such British myopia, sadly, is one reason why this country has responded so haphazardly to the volcanic catastrophe on Montserrat. The island may be a tourist hideaway; but it is also a close-knit, God-fearing, traditional society. Schools teach reading, writing and maths, enter pupils for GCE O levels rather than the easier GCSE, ban smoking and whack miscreants on the palm with a ruler. These staunch people have been not a little offended to be branded in their hour of need as greedy layabouts by snidely patronising officials in London.

What should now be done with these scholarly little refugees? They could, of course, be exposed to the full range of extra-curricular activities in Britain's inner cities, in the certainty that this would soon pull them back to the level of their classmates. They could be encouraged as role models, with native pupils urged to follow and learn from overseas example, a quaint reversal of the colonial experience. Or they could simply be allowed to rise to the top of the form — or indeed of the form above — and presented with old-fashioned prizes. A golden elephant each, perhaps, and a handshake from Clare Short?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Preserving life at all costs or simply prolonging dying?

From Mr Joe Ashton, MP for Bassetlaw (Labour)

Sir, Cardinal Basil Hume ("The death of trust", November 27) says "the advocates of euthanasia are on the march" and strongly condemns my Doctor Assisted Dying Bill, which I will introduce in Parliament on December 10.

My Bill is not about euthanasia. Euthanasia is mercy killing. My Bill simply gives the right to terminally ill patients to shorten their life by choice. Nobody can kill them, but they would, by law, be able to die with dignity when they could no longer bear the suffering or distress.

Two requests would have to be made and agreed by both the doctor and a specialist consultant in that illness. The request could be withdrawn at any time. No doctor who is a relative of the patient or a business partner would be allowed to prescribe. No doctor could be compelled to accede to the request, but would have to transfer the patient to another doctor if asked to do so.

The coroner's office would impose safeguards. The Department of Health would draw up a code of practice, and penalties for not complying with the law would constitute a criminal offence, liable to imprisonment not exceeding 14 years.

The current legislation regarding the administration of pain-killing drugs which may shorten life is full of uncertainty. The patient has no say in the decision. All he can hope for is a sympathetic doctor who may or may not be prepared to accede to a request for a merciful, dignified end, when the patient chooses.

Both doctor and patient need to know what the law is. Annie Lindsell's heartrending attempt to get the High Court to define the law (report, October 29) showed that it lacked clarity and was ambiguous.

Cardinal Hume states: "Clearly, life

need not be preserved at all costs when a person is already dying." Why then should a terminally ill patient not have the right to choose?

Very few merciful voters would deny them that right.

Yours etc,  
JOE ASHTON,  
House of Commons,  
November 28.

From the General Secretary of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society

Sir, Cardinal Hume is training his fire on those who campaign for the right of terminally ill patients to die with dignity. However, he is doomed to failure because the wishes of the general public — 82 per cent according to *British Social Attitudes*, 1996 (see also "When there is life without hope", Law, December 10, 1996) — will ultimately prevail.

The reason for public support is not difficult to discover. Anybody would like to see a person in distress because of palliative hospice care do not accord with their experience. Neither do they subscribe to the Pope's edict that suffering is part of God's saving plan.

A BMA News Review survey (September 4, 1996) of more than 750 doctors showed a small majority of those who responded supporting a change in the law. A survey in the medical journal *Pulse* (November 1) showed that out of 200 doctors who had replied 93 had eased a patient's death and just under half felt that to do so would be right. By helping patients to die these doctors are placing their careers and liberty at risk. But these unregulated acts are open to abuse.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN OLIVER,  
General Secretary,  
The Voluntary Euthanasia Society,  
13 Prince of Wales Terrace, W8,  
November 27.

From the Reverend Dr John Searle

Sir, Cardinal Hume is right to point out that the experience of euthanasia in Holland should warn us against making voluntary euthanasia lawful and that the experience of hospices in the United Kingdom should remind us that there is a better way of caring for the terminally ill.

What began in Holland as the ending of life because people considered their suffering intolerable has become the ending of their lives without request because others consider their quality of life intolerable. Palliative care services are poorly developed in Holland. In contrast, over the last five years the Exeter Hospice has looked after over 3,000 terminally ill people at home and as inpatients. None have asked for their lives to be ended.

It cannot be in a person's best interests for doctors to use drugs or other methods to prolong dying. When it is clear that that is happening it is surely right to withdraw them, even though death will occur sooner than it would have done if they were continued. It was this principle which the courts applied to Tony Bland, who was in a permanent vegetative state after the injuries he received in the Hillsborough football disaster.

Cardinal Hume is, I think, mistaken to suggest that this was passive euthanasia. Rather, it was recognising that the essential "humanness" of Tony Bland had been destroyed and medical treatment was prolonging his dying.

Such an approach neither undermines Christian belief in the sanctity of life nor supports the case for making voluntary euthanasia lawful.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN SEARLE  
(Consultant anaesthetist  
and Anglican priest),  
8 Thornton Hill, Exeter, Devon,  
November 27.

### Action imperative on climate change

From the Director of the WWF-UK and others

Sir, In a statement released on November 24 more than 600 leading European climate scientists urged agreement at the forthcoming climate change summit in Kyoto on substantive and immediate action for curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

They list the "irreversible risks to society and nature" arising from sea-level rise, crop losses, forest destruction and the expanded range of pests and pathogens, and they call for nations "to set limits on the increase in global temperatures due to human interference".

The scientists are right. If we listen to the arguments of the fossil fuel lobby, as is happening in the US, and allow greenhouse gas emissions to continue unchecked, we impose an irreversible burden upon future generations.

The European Union has shown admirable leadership by calling for a 15 per cent cut in emissions by 2010; the scientists endorse this as a "positive first step, consistent with long-term climate protection". In the face of blandishments from the US, the EU must stand firm. The efforts of single-interest groups, such as the US-based fossil fuel lobby, must not be allowed to derail the Kyoto negotiations.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBIN FELLEW, Director,  
WWF-UK,  
SIMON LISTER  
(The Wildlife Trusts),  
PETER MADDEN (Green Alliance),  
PETER MELCHETT (Greenpeace),  
CHARLES SECRET  
(Friends of the Earth),  
BARBARA YOUNG (RSPB),  
Panda House,  
Weyside Park, Cottesloe Lane,  
Godalming, Surrey,  
November 26.

### A future for hunting?

From Field Marshal Sir John Stanier

Sir, From Friday's Commons vote on the hunting Bill (reports, November 29) it seems likely that Parliament will soon make the sport illegal, despite the wishes of many.

I have spent much of my life in Germany where, ironically, the hunting of wild animals with hounds was largely made illegal before the war by the Nazis. When the British Army became subject to German law we had a pack of bloodhounds.

A British tabloid newspaper soon heard that arrogant British officers were hunting down their own soldiers and sent a reporter to investigate. Hidden in a hedge with his camera, he was soon rewarded with the sight of a wretched man panting past him, clearly running for his life. Soon after he heard the fearful sound of a pack of bloodhounds in full cry and watched as the great beasts came by, giving tongue from their slavering jaws. Close behind galloped a great body of horsemen.

At great risk to himself, the reporter, dragging himself through hedges and fences, was in at the kill. To his astonishment, he found the runner to be a young officer, while at least half of the riders were mounted troopers. Hounds meanwhile were covering their quarry with friendly licks. Bloodhounds have, of course, no killing instinct but will follow a single scent with undivided attention.

Herein perhaps lies the future of hunting and, who knows, perhaps the hunt saboteurs, who clearly enjoy a day in the country, may volunteer to run the lines to make it as difficult as possible for the horsemen. Then perhaps we can all live happily ever after.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN STANIER,  
As from: The Cavalry and  
Guards Club,  
127 Piccadilly, W1,  
29 November.

### Victims of crime

From Mr H. W. Haslam

Sir, Does not the suggestion that victims of crime are to have a say on sentences (in brief, November 25) confirm the purposes of the civil and criminal aspects of the law?

The views and interests of victims have their place in consideration of compensation. The sentencing of an offender, however, should be concerned with the public interest: the discouragement of crime, the protection of society and the punishment and rehabilitation of the offender.

The individual views of the victim, be they vindictive or forgiving, should not influence the setting of an appropriate sentence in accordance with these objectives, except insofar as the victim may be particularly at risk from a repeat offence.

Yours faithfully,  
HENRY HASLAM,  
Stanton Lodge Extension,  
Thurley Lane,  
Stanton on the Wolds, Nottingham,  
November 26.

Sport letters, page 36

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5044. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

### Concern over Labour's plans for out-of-school childcare

From the Director of the Family Education Trust

Sir, We often hear it said that as a nation we pride ourselves in giving priority to the needs of children. It is therefore remarkable that the Government has announced the setting up of 30,000 out-of-school clubs at the cost of £300 million, to be manned by, among others, 50,000 young people recruited under the Welfare to Work scheme (reports, November 26).

Some serious questions need to be asked in the light of recent controversy over the wisdom of charging young, uncommitted people with the care of children. Who is to select these young people? Who will train them and for how long? Who will supervise them? At what age are children to be put into their charge?

Children who already have no fathers will effectively also have their mothers removed from them by these quick-fix proposals — proposals which coincide with increasing evidence that parental supervision is the most important factor in preventing crime in later life and in promoting educational achievement.

The charges which they are designed to bring about must come from giving the necessary support to marriage and the family, not from hounding single mothers out to work, thereby virtually orphaning their children.

Yours faithfully,  
VALERIE RICHES, Director,  
Family Education Trust,  
322 Woodstock Road, Oxford,  
November 26.

From Mrs Elisabeth Hoodless

Sir, The concerns of young people raised in research by the Industrial Society (News in brief, November 25)

emphasises the need for a nationwide "Citizens' Service" for all young people in the UK.

If every young person were to be offered the opportunity to invest 1,000 hours or up to a year to the benefit of their local community — helping to raise literacy levels in schools, caring for people with disabilities, providing friendship and company for those in hospital — they would have the opportunity to enjoy the out-of-school learning opportunities which they clearly demand.

Citizens' Service would offer young people the chance to develop skills which would prepare them for "the real world". It would instil the sense of community which is lacking in the lives of young people, and which leads to the exclusion and disenfranchisement they feel so strongly.

Yours sincerely,  
ELISABETH HOODLESS  
(Executive Director),  
CSV (Community Service Volunteers),  
237 Pennington Road, N1,  
November 25.

From Dr Fiona Cornish

Sir, When is this Government going to make childcare a tax-deductible expense?

I am a GP with four children, a husband on an academic salary, and a nanny. I pay about one third of my post-tax pay on my nanny, who does an excellent job. Her salary is subject to tax and NI, some of which I pay; so the Inland Revenue has done very nicely so far.

Why don't I stay at home and look after my children? Because I enjoy my job. I have been trained as a doctor at vast expense to the taxpayer, and we could not possibly bring up our family

on a single academic salary. After-school clubs are great news. Could all childcare be made tax-deductible, please?

Yours faithfully,  
FIONA CORNISH,  
151 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge,  
November 26.

From Professor Emeritus C. W. McCombie

Sir, It is said that the compassion which prompted protest at the proposed cut in benefits for single parents is showing signs of being set to rest by the promised Welfare to Work scheme.

This scheme may well bring about an average improvement in the lot of single parents. But that average improvement will bring little comfort to single parents with no realistic prospect of doing anything other than struggle on with considerably reduced income.

Compassion is for individuals, not for averages.

Yours faithfully,  
C. W. MCCOMBIE,  
Flat 4, Talbot House,  
55 Castle Street, Reading, Berkshire,  
November 26.

From Mr T. H. Hughes-Davies

Sir, We have advanced since the Victorians: women who once earned a precarious living by taking in one another's washing now take in one another's children.

Yours sincerely,  
T. H. HUGHES-DAVIES,  
Slades Cottage, Breamore,  
Fordingbridge, Hampshire,  
November 26.

### A true disorder

From the Chief Executive of the National Autistic Society

Sir, Contrary to your report "Americans' mental problems" mainly in the minds of their psychiatrists" (November 27), what it calls Asperger's disorder isn't a "bombastic label for shyness", nor is it a mental illness. It is a form of autism, a disability which affects the way a person communicates.

Far from being one of the disorders made up by psychiatrists as the authors of a new guide suggest, it is a clearly defined condition, with a considerable body of research, affecting more than 200,000 people in the UK. As with autism, the causes of Asperger's syndrome are still being investigated, but it results from a variety of conditions which affect brain development. There is no cure.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL CANN,  
Chief Executive,  
The National Autistic Society,  
393 City Road, EC1,  
November 27.

### Proceed with care

From Miss Gene McDowell

Sir, Instructions once noted on a jump label: "Pierce lid with a pin, then push off" (letters, November 11, 13, 18, 24, 26, 29).

Yours faithfully,  
GENE McDOWELL,  
Lynton Cottage, Eastington,  
Stonehouse, Gloucestershire,  
November 28.

### Long road home

From the Reverend David H. van Daelen

Sir, The stories about far-travelling letters and postcodes (November 20, 25, 28) are quite entertaining. I never know which is more amazing, the ingenuity displayed by some correspondents in concocting idiosyncratic addresses, or the ability of the Post Office to deliver their letters.

I have received mail with garbled addresses, the letters PE of the postcode being the only indication to where I live. I recently received one that contained no hint where I might be found. It took the Post Office only five days to find me.

Yours faithfully,  
D. H. VAN DAELLEN,  
Shalom,  
10 Sandwick Road, St Neots,  
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

From Mrs A. G. Lynne

Sir, Mr William Fisher (letter, November 25) in suggesting the use only of house number and postcode, would deprive us of one of the last written idiosyncrasies of our heritage.

In the face of ever-lengthening numbers and Morse code e-mail references, the poetry of Ditchingford-in-the-Marsh, Lower Codswallow and the neat prepositions of "by" and "near" portray everything of our delightful English countryside.

Yours faithfully,  
A. G. LYNNE,  
Dedham House,  
Dedham, or Colchester, Essex,  
November 26.

### Winston's Austin 10

From Mr Andrew G. Simpson

Sir, Your Motoring Editor's description of Winston Churchill's Austin 10 performance (report, November 22) was slightly unjust. The engine in fact developed 32 brake horse power and the road tests of the day gave a top speed of over 60mph.

I fear, however, that then, as now, a political leader's decisions on motoring matters, whether appropriate personal transport or Formula One grand prix racing, may not relate solely to technical considerations.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW G. SIMPSON,  
Blacklaws, Nr Longridge,  
Bedgate, West Lothian,  
November 22.

### All pally at the Palace

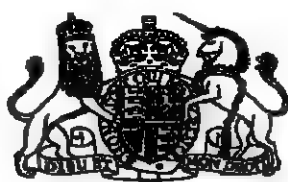
From Mr Philip Ray

Sir, The new co-sine between Downing Street and Buckingham Palace appears to have spread to your Court Circular.

When our new Prime Minister took office in May, the Circular referred to him as "The Rt Hon Anthony Blair". However, I notice in today's edition that this has now changed to the more informal "Tony". I wonder who took this momentous decision?

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP RAY,  
6 Cleve Terrace,  
Lewes, East Sussex,  
philip.ray@btinternet.com,  
November 27.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
November 29: The Princess Royal, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence, RN, today carried out the following engagements in Bogotá, Colombia.

Her Royal Highness this morning visited Colombia's Children's Hospital.

The Princess Royal later visited La Casa Drug Rehabilitation Centre.

Her Royal Highness afterwards visited Ben Post Home for Street Children.

The Princess Royal was entertained to luncheon by the President of the Republic of Colombia at the Presidential Palace.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Institute of Immunology, San Juan de Dios Hospital.

The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, later visited Eze Park.

Her Royal Highness afterwards visited the National Police Hospital.

The Princess Royal this evening attended a Reception given by Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia (His Excellency Sir Leicester Colman) at the residence.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
November 29: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the Guide Association, today visited York and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant, North Yorkshire (Sir Marcus Worsley, Bt).

Her Royal Highness attended a Luncheon given by the North East England Guide Association at

their headquarters, 106 Heworth Green.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this afternoon attended the Association's Advent Service in York Minster.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
November 30: The Princess Royal, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence, RN, today carried out the following engagements in Cali, Colombia.

Her Royal Highness this morning visited the Caminos Drug Rehabilitation Project.

The Princess Royal later visited Colombia-Britain College.

Her Royal Highness attended luncheon given by the Mayor of Cali at the Cali Country Club.

The Princess Royal this afternoon visited the Hospital Infantil Club Noel and opened the new operating theatre.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, afterwards visited Cal Zoo and opened the new aquarium.

The Princess Royal this evening attended a Dinner given by Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia (His Excellency Sir Leicester Colman) at the Embassy, Bogotá.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
November 30: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Scottish Opera, this evening attended a Concert at the Palace of Holyroodhouse and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Eric Milligan, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

## Birthdays today

Mr John Aldridge, orthopaedic surgeon, 55; Mr Rodney Allen, Mayor and director, 62; Professor Sir Norman Brown, former Professor of Surgery, St Thomas' Hospital Medical School, 66; Mr Anthony Cox, Chief Constable, Suffolk, 56; Mr Gordon Crosse, composer, 60; Mr Mike Denham, cricketer, 57; Mr Stephen Edell, former Personnel Investment Authority ombudsman, 65; Miss Eva Evdokimova, prima ballerina, 49; Lord Glenconner, 71; Dame Alicia Markova, prima ballerina, 87; Mr Keith Mitchell, actor, 68; Miss Bette Midler, singer and actress, 52; Mr Stephen Pollakoff, playwright, 45; Mr Richard Pryor, actor, 57; Major-General Sir Desmond Rice, 73; Dame Mildred Ridsdale, civil servant, 84; Mr Andy Ripley, rugby player, 30; Lord Neil of Islay, 90; the Right Rev Peter Selby, Bishop of Worcester, 56; Mr Lee Trevino, golfer, 58; Baroness Wiloughby de Eresby, 63.

## Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend the Royal Variety Performance, Victoria Palace Theatre, London SW1, at 7.

Princess Margaret, as Patron, Youth Clubs Scotland, will attend the final of the BRY Youth Clubs Scotland Grizzly Challenge and Gruff Kids Projects at Murrayfield Stadium Conference Centre, at 2.

**Memorial service**

38 Group RAF  
A service in memory of the Air Crew of 38 Group RAF, including RAF pilots who were seconded to the RAF Pilot Regiment and died on March 24, 1945, Operation Vengeance—the Rhine Crossing, was held yesterday at St Clement Danes, Strand. The Rev David MacKenzie officiated. Air Chief Marshal Sir David Parry-Evans read the lesson.



The Bishop of Winchester, the Right Rev Michael Scott-Joynt, ascends on a crane platform for the dedication on Saturday of a new statue of St Luke, patron saint of Epsom College in Surrey. The original had become badly worn.

## Appointments in the Forces

**Royal Air Force**  
GROUP CAPTAIN: L J Burrell to MOD, 2.12.97; A Campbell to RAF Odiham, 5.12.97.  
RETIREMENTS  
AIR COMMODORE: M C Rudd, 3.12.97.  
GROUP CAPTAIN: T J Jones, 3.11.97; M J Stiles, 2.12.97; D G Hawkins, 3.12.97; S J Morris, 3.12.97.

## Legal appointments

Mr Justice Pons to be Chairman of the Special Immigration Appeals Commission, the appointment to take effect when the Special Immigration Appeals Commission Bill is granted the Royal Assent.  
Judge Reginald Lockett to be Senior Circuit Judge at Preston Magistrates' Court, Lancashire, to be leader of the North Eastern Circuit from January 1 in succession to Stephen Williamson, QC.

## Service reunion

RAF Temporal Association  
The 50th and final annual Temporal reunion (138 and 161 Squadrons) was held on Saturday at the Stewart Memorial Hall, Tempford, Bedfordshire. Air Chief Marshal Sir Lewis Hodges presided.

## University news

Stirling  
Mr Giles Dove to be Stirling University's first Director of Public Relations, from January 1, 1998.

## Service dinners

**Prison Society**  
Captain John Harvey-Samuel, RN, presided at the annual dinner of the Prison Society of former Russian interpreters held on Saturday at HMS Collingwood.  
35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (V)  
The Deputy Lord Mayor of Birmingham was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the 35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) on Saturday at the Council House, Leicester-Colonel R.M. Thornton, Royal Signals, presided. Brigadier L.A. Sim, Honorary Colonel, also spoke.

**Airborne TA**  
Airborne TA officers held a dinner night at Aldershot on Saturday. Lieutenant-Colonel E.J. Kolm, REME, presided.

## Dinners

**The Old Latimerian Association**  
The Annual OLA Dinner was held at Latimer Upper School, W6, on Friday, November 28, with Nigel Orton, JP, in the Chair. Principal guests included the Headmaster, Mr C. Digby, and Mr Keith Vaz, MP, who proposed the toast to the School and the Association.

**Trondheim School Catechary**  
A dinner was held at Trondheim School on Saturday, to celebrate the centenary of the Dale Memorial Racquet Court. The President of the Old Trondheimian Squash and Racquet Club, Mr R.M.K. Grady, was in the chair.

Mr J.R. Thompson, Lord Cowdry of Tonbridge and Mr R.J. Crosby also spoke.

## Piping centre chief wins top award

By ANGUS NICOL

THE Glenfiddich Championship, the 26th since it was established by William Grant & Son Ltd in 1974, has taken place in the Great Hall of Blair Castle, at Blair Atholl. The Fear an tìgh was Dr John Smith.

Ten pipers competed for the substantial prizes, each having to play both *ceòl mòr* and *ceòl beag*. The pipers are given their tunes the evening before the event. This year, by coincidence, three of those competing had the same tunes as they had played in the London competitions a week earlier.

The first prize for *ceòl mòr*, which includes the Highland Society of London's Trophy, was won by Roderick MacLeod, director of piping at the new Piping Centre in Glasgow, and winner of the Glenfiddich Championship in 1992. He played *The Lament for the Viscount of Dundee*, as he had in London. Last year's winner, Mr C. Digby, came second.

Alasdair Gillies, came second playing *The Lament for Donald Diarmid MacKay*. In third place, Mike Cusack, from Texas, played *The Lament for the Children*, which he won the British Gorn in London. Fourth was Angus MacColl, with *The Lament for the Viscount of Dundee*. William MacCallum took fifth place with *Rory MacLoud's Lament*.

The other tunes heard, still excellent even if they were no prize, included *The Lament for the Earl*

of Arrian, played by Pipe-Sergeant Gordon Walker. James Murray played *I got a kiss of the King's Hand*, Robert Wallace *The Park Pibroch* (No. 2), and Dr Angus MacDonald *The Lament for MacSwan of Roag*, with which he has won the gold at Oban.

Several present rather hoped that Duncan MacGillivray would give *The Menzies Salute*, with which he won the gold medal at Inverness this year, since it is a fine tune which is rarely heard. However, he played *Ronald Macdonald of Morar's Lament*.

The winner of the *ceòl beag* part of the championship, and the PML Redfern Trophy, was Angus MacColl. He played, appropriately, *Mrs John MacColl* (who was his great-grand-aunt), *John Roy Stewart* and *The Rejected Suitor*. William MacCallum took second prize. Third was Roderick MacLeod, fourth, Pipe-Sergeant Gordon Walker, and Alasdair Gillies took fifth in spite of a note error in his reel.

The overall winner of the championship, awarded to the competitor who does best in both sections, with *ceòl mòr* taking precedence in the case of equality, was Roderick MacLeod. Second overall was Angus MacColl, and third Alasdair Gillies.

The Balmoral Medal, awarded to a person whose services to piping have been outstanding, went this year to Donald MacPherson.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.A. Greenwood and Miss L.C. Whitburn

The engagement is announced between Paul, younger son of Mr and Mrs P.A. Greenwood, of 10, Gail Court, Wiston, Cheshire, and Lucy, only daughter of Mr and Mrs L.C. Whitburn, of 10, Gail Court, Wiston, Cheshire.

Mr O.V.H. Howell and Miss H.A.H. Lelover

The engagement is announced between Oliver, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Howell, of Partridge Green, West Sussex, and Helen, daughter of Colonel and Mrs Paul Lelover, of Marlborough, Wiltshire.

Mr B.R. Kent and Miss V.E. Goodfellow

The engagement is announced between Ben, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Kent, of Greenwich, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs Mark Goodfellow, of Putney.

Mr G.D. Murray Smith and Miss R. Lloyd-Williams

The engagement is announced between George, son of the late Mr and Mrs William Pyle Murray Smith, of Auchtermuchty, Perthshire, and Rosalind, only daughter of Dr and Mrs David Lloyd-Williams, of Maidenhead, Berkshire.

Mr J.W.R. Percival-Macwell and Miss L.C. Mansers Price

The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr and Mrs J.W.R. Percival-Macwell, of 10, Gail Court, Wiston, Cheshire, and Lucy, only daughter of Mr and Mrs L.C. Mansers Price, of 10, Gail Court, Wiston, Cheshire.

Mr R.H. Soames and Mrs J. Hailes

The engagement is announced between Robin Soames, TD, DL, and Milner, widow of Lieutenant Colonel Jack Hailes, DSO. The marriage has been arranged to take place in London, quietly, on Wednesday, January 7.

## Marriages

Mr G.H. Ardern and Miss C.V. Pacey

The marriage took place on Saturday at Christ Church, Chelsea, of Mr and Mrs Derek Ardern, of 10, Gail Court, Wiston, Cheshire, and Miss Claire Pacey, elder daughter of the Hon Martin and Mrs Penny, of Dulwich, London. The Rev Christopher Keyall-Davies officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Alice Russell, Camilla Pugh, Rosie Coleman and Hugo Coleman. Mr Patrick de Solares was best man.

A reception was held at Skinners' Hall and the honeymoon will be spent in Madeira and Italy.

Mr E.C.B. Moxon and Mrs D.B.C. Moxon

The marriage took place yesterday in London between Mr Edward Moxon and Mrs Diana Moxon.

Mr N.S.C. Rice and Countess Ulla Mirner

The marriage took place on November 29, 1997, in Sweden, between Noel Rice and Ulla Mirner. Lieutenant Commander T.J.L. Wright, RN, and Miss P. Lyon.

The marriage took place on Friday, in the Queens Chapel, St James's Palace, London, between Lieutenant Commander Toby Williamson, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Williamson, of Canterbury, Kent, and Miss P. Lyon, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Lyon, of Tebury, Gloucestershire, and Denbigh, Denbighshire. The Rev Willie Booth officiated.

A reception was held at St James's Palace.

**Anniversaries**

BIRTHS: Alexandra, Queen Consort of King Edward VII, Copenhagen, 1844.

DEATHS: St Edmund Campion, Jesuit martyr, executed, 1581.

## Nature notes

THE countryside is full of field-birds, boldly marked and grey thrushes that have come here for the winter from the far North. They fly high, in flocks of up to 80 or 100, then swoop down on a hedge laden with hawthorn berries, making loud clucking calls. Field warblers feed round the hedges of hawthorn, picking up insects that have been disturbed in the grass. They often feed in pairs: the male can be distinguished by his black back, whereas the female's back is greyer. Some blackbirds are singing very quietly in the middle of hedges, a thin, rambling song with only traces of the rich summer song in it. These winter performances, which take place only in mild weather, are thought to be practice sessions.

Young blackbirds still have a crown of yellow leaves. The lightest wind sends the last dry oak leaves down in showers. Some



The fieldfare

dandelion flowers in sheltered places may survive the winter, and here and there a small, wiry dandelion, which is a small, wiry dandelion, can still be found in bloom. The small white flowers of chickweed continue to open. On muddy roadside verges, next year's fern-like cow parsley leaves and aromatic ground ivy leaves are already growing sturdy. DJM

BMDS: 0171 680 6880  
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

## PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982  
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. Isaiah 2: 3.

## BIRTHS

**COOPER** - On November 20th a son (James) and daughter (Sophie) were born to Mr and Mrs David Cooper. Both children are well.

**WONG** - On 15th November, in Hong Kong, to Maria (de Barrow) and Simon, a daughter, a sister for Nicholas.

**WOMERSLEY** - On 22nd November, to Alice (de Reid) and David, a son, Arthur Martin Richard, a brother for Patrick.

**WRIGHT** - On 12th November 1997, to Andrea (de Lloyd) and John, a daughter, Madeline Elizabeth.

## PLATINUM ANNIVERSARIES

**de COURCY-BELLEVILLE-JONES** - On December 1927, at St Mary's Church, London, Mr and Mrs de Courcy-Belleville-Jones celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. Mr and Mrs de Courcy-Belleville-Jones are both well and happy.

**de COURCY-BELLEVILLE-JONES** - On 19th December, at St Mary's Church, London, Mr and Mrs de Courcy-Belleville-Jones celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. Mr and Mrs de Courcy-Belleville-Jones are both well and happy.

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## DEATHS

**LATHWAITE** - Eric Roberts suddenly on November 27th. A loving husband to Sheila Lathwaite, a devoted father to Martin, Brian, Louise and Paul, grandfather to Peter, John and James. He was 70. Buried at 4 pm on Thursday 27th November at St. Mary's Church, London. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Mary's Church, London. Tel: 0171 481 4000.

**WILLIAMS** - John of Canterbury died peacefully at home on 28th November. He was 70. Buried at 4 pm on Thursday 27th November at St. Mary's Church, London. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Mary's Church, London. Tel: 0171 481 4000.

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## OBITUARIES

## JON SILKIN

Jon Silkin, poet, critic and editor, died in Newcastle upon Tyne on November 25 aged 66. He was born in London on December 2, 1930.

Jon Silkin was a distinctive poet and a dedicated and selfless literary professional. For more than forty years he edited the little magazine *Stand*, which he founded in 1952 and turned into an innovative, influential and remarkably durable presence on the contemporary poetry scene. In the magazine's pages, in his teaching, in his own substantial body of verse, and in his anthologies and critical editions of other poets (both contemporary and, notably, of the First World War), Silkin upheld a passionate, complex belief in the social importance of poetry.

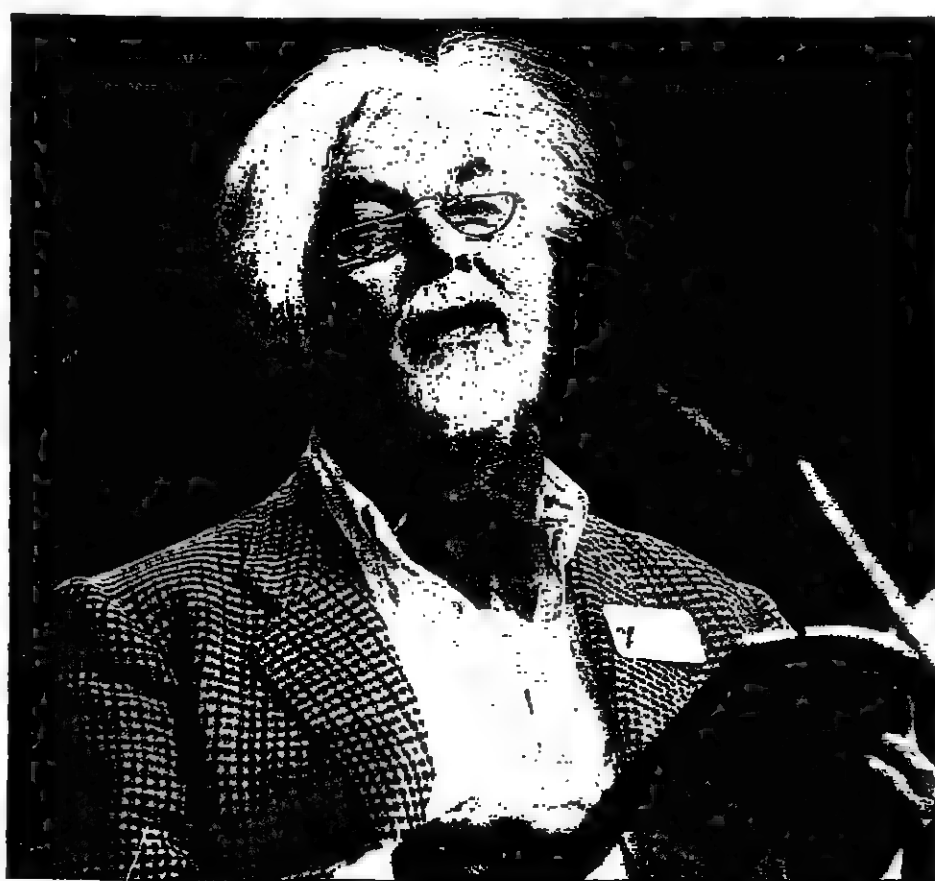
An only child, Jon Silkin came from a Jewish family which had produced a number of noted lawyers and politicians. His sense of Jewishness, he liked to emphasise, gave him a rather special access to his mother tongue. Writing of the poet Isaac Rosenberg, who was killed in the trenches, he speaks of a plastic and somewhat sculptural use of language; elsewhere he describes thought as being in some important sense a physical activity. His own poetry demonstrates an intense linguistic energy.

In 1939 he moved from London to Swansea, where his maternal grandparents lived. As a child and adolescent during the war, he remained largely unaware of the full extent of Nazi atrocities, but he experienced his share of anti-Semitism, as well as of kindness.

His Jewishness, and his "foreignness" in Wales, may have reinforced his sense of being an outsider, something on which he would later draw repeatedly in order to criticise social injustice and the dire inhumanities of world war, the Holocaust and man's mistreatment of his fellow creatures.

He was always scrupulous in accounting for these distant but significant and formative experiences. The basic problem for him was how to live respected by his peers while also retaining self-respect. Questions of proper action, social responsibility and authentic selfhood run through his life and work.

After his return to London from Wales, his schooling was marked by expulsion from Dulwich College. At some point he had been excused the school's chapel services and regular scripture lessons and



had gone off conscientiously to read the Old Testament instead. This was to help to shape his poetic style when, having realised that he was not going to make it as a composer — he could not read music, for a start — he stumbled towards being a poet.

The decade after the war was difficult for him. He taught English to foreign students and worked as a labourer, among many short-term jobs in London, partly with an idea that a middle-class writer needed to have a broader experience of life. National Service took him into the Army in 1948 and he became a sergeant in the Education Corps.

Returning to civilian life armed only with the School Certificate, he was soon moving from one bedsit to another. But in the early Fifties he began writing in earnest and made literary friendships, for example with Emanuel Livinoff, Bernard Bergonzi and Alan Brownjohn.

Cynthia, the woman with whom he was then living, gave birth to Adam, the subject of his first major and still perhaps best-known poem, *Death of a Son*. He had arrived in the hospital room with Cynthia at the moment when their one-year-old died, and the last line immediately came into his mind: *And out of his eyes two great*

tears rolled, like stones, and he died.

The poem was included in *The Peaceable Kingdom* (1954) and was well-timed to find recognition for a new and individual voice, coming as it did before the influential "Movement" anthology, *New Lines* (1956), and the flurry of acclaim for Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath. Silkin's first collection displayed a striking vision and ambition; it sought, in effect, to heal the shattering turmoil of the war.

From growing mercy and a moderate love  
Great love for the human animal occurs.

And your love grows. Your great love grows and grows.

Silkin consolidated his reputation with another volume, *The Two Freedoms*, in 1958 ("Among the youngest generation of poets no one shows higher promise," wrote *The Times* reviewer), and ended the decade with a move north, to a Gregory Poetry Fellowship at Leeds University. He stayed on there to take a degree in English in 1962, and to do postgraduate work on the poets of the First World War.

Those studies provided the foundation for a number of important books and critical anthologies, such as *Out of Battle: The Penguin Book of First World War Poetry*, *The Penguin Book of First World War Prose*, and an edition of

Wilfred Owen's *Collected Poems*. Silkin felt that full understanding of the literature of the First World War was hampered by an undue emphasis on its lyrical romantic melancholy; his own approach, eloquently argued in his introductory essays and reflected in his selection of writers and texts, valued passion, consistency and commitment.

A mature student is often a good adult educator, and Silkin's long and effective career as a freelance teacher in higher education began in Leeds. There was something particularly full about the attention he gave both to the text and to his pupils, a wholehearted, earnest courtesy which valued his interlocutor in a very special way as a fellow "creature" (a word much used in his writing, together with such variants as "creaturity").

The early Sixties were also a heady period for literary and political life in Leeds, and Silkin became a forceful figure in a milieu that included Geoffrey Hill and Peter Redgrove. He was the first to publish Tony Harrison.

Silkin then moved to Newcastle upon Tyne, where he was to spend the rest of his life. Refusing to be diverted by fashion, he continued to develop his distinctive voice — grave, rugged, measured, sometimes heavy with the

weight of difficult themes. His subjects — man and nature, suffering and isolation, inhumanity and pain — remained constant, but a northeastern setting lent them new vigour in some of his best poems, such as the *Killhope Wheel* sequence of 1974, centred on a Durham mining community.

The mid-1960s saw the birth of a number of regional arts associations, and in 1965 Silkin managed to persuade the North Eastern Arts Association (now Northern Arts) to give support to *Stand*, which had been founded more than a decade before. The magazine thenceforth adopted its familiar landscape format and expanded its international sweep, often printing work which Silkin had come across on his frequent foreign poetry-reading tours.

A magazine, even one run, like *Stand*, with a whole series of skivvying assistants (many of whom went on to make substantial reputations and some of whom have suggested starting a *Stand* Veterans' Society), is a continuing burden, with hundreds of submissions to be sifted for each issue. A natural editor, Silkin was always on the look-out for new talent rather than the safety of big names. Once chosen, the work would be rigorously discussed with the author. Silkin's objections were often surprising, but a grain in them forced the author to make improvements. Above all, he communicated his sense that writing was among the most serious things a person could do.

He was also a surprisingly sharp businessman in many ways. He was the nonpareil of magazine sellers, which is how he managed to keep a poetry magazine going for so long in a country where buying poetry was — and remains for most people — simply unthinkable.

His physical presence helped. Short, genial, fierce, solicitous, black-haired and bearded at first, then white-haired and black-bearded until both turned silver, he looked like a poet, or a not-too-alarming prophet. No further accoutrements were needed, and he remained faithful to the sports jacket with leather elbow pads, just as his taste in food remained essentially postwar British. He liked arguing, partly for the sake of it and partly to continue the debate with himself started so long ago in the war. A volume of his *Selected Poems* was published in 1994.

His marriage to Lorna Tracy, a co-editor of *Stand*, was dissolved in 1995. He is survived by three sons and a daughter.

AIR VICE-MARSHAL  
WILFRID OULTON

Air Vice-Marshal Wilfrid Oulton, CB, CBE, DSO, DFC, died on October 31 aged 86. He was born on July 27, 1911.

AS THE task force commander of Operation Grapple, Wilfrid Oulton organised Britain's hydrogen bomb tests at Christmas Island 40 years ago. With pressure mounting for a treaty banning atmospheric testing, he was ordered to plan the programme without delay. Working closely with the nuclear scientist Sir William (later Lord) Penney, he completed the preparations within nine months. The tests have since been surrounded by controversy because of claims by a number of the 4,000 men involved that their health has suffered as a result of their exposure to radiation.

Oulton, who published his own account of the enterprise in *Christmas Island Cracker* (1987), always stood aside from the debate. He privately took the view that the authorities could hardly be blamed for knowing so much less about the risks at the time than they do today. But he always expressed his concern for the men's welfare. Several years ago, he accepted an invitation from the British Nuclear Tests Veterans Association to unveil a plaque in Portsmouth Cathedral's rose garden in memory of those who had died — but only on condition that he was kept out of all publicity.

His South Pacific assignment enabled Oulton to display the full range of his technical knowledge, as well as his great energy as an organiser. But it came to the end of a career built largely around maritime operations and his deep interest in navigation.

He won both the DFC and his DSO in 1943 while commanding 58 Squadron, when he scored a hat-trick of successes against German U-boats in the Bay of Biscay. Piloting a Halifax bomber in May that year, he sank two of them with depth charges in little more than a week, and shortly afterwards immobilised a third — which was finished off by a follow-up aircraft.

Wilfrid Ewart Oulton was

born at Monks Copenhall, Cheshire, the son of a science master whose family had lived there for two centuries. His father had worked under the nuclear scientist Rutherford as a young man, and later moved to Aberllynny in South Wales, where he became a headmaster, and where Wilfrid went to school.

At 16, Oulton won a scholarship to read engineering at the University College of Wales, Cardiff, but then moved to the RAF College, Cranwell, com-



ing top of the entry for that year. Commissioned in 1931, he served first with a flying boat squadron in Malta before going on a course at the School of Navigation, Manston. He showed such aptitude that he was converted from being a student into a member of the instructing staff. He also went to the RAF staff college in 1936, producing a forward-looking paper there on rocket warfare.

As the start of the war, Oulton was serving with a flying-boat squadron at Pembroke Dock, carrying out maritime patrols over Britain's Western Approaches. There followed a posting to the Ministry of Aircraft Production, where he was in charge of research on navigational equipment.

He left for Washington in 1941 to help to establish a training scheme for British air crews, before becoming a member of the combined services liaison team after Pearl Harbor. After returning to command 58 Squadron, he was detailed to set up an RAF base on the Azores, then went

to take charge of the flying-boat station at RAF Castle Archdale in Northern Ireland. At the end of the war, during which he was mentioned in dispatches three times, Oulton was Deputy Director Flying Control, with responsibility for setting up air traffic control systems in postwar Britain, including those at the new airport at Heathrow. Between 1946 and 1948 he was director of the Joint Anti-Submarine School at Londonderry, where one of his students was the young Duke of Edinburgh, shortly after his marriage to the Queen.

Oulton thereafter continued his steady rise upwards through the RAF, serving between 1950 and 1943 as air attaché in Argentina, from where he also covered Uruguay and Paraguay. He was appointed CBE on his return and CB in 1958, following his tour on Christmas Island. He retired in 1960 after a final posting as senior air staff officer with Coastal Command.

In retirement, he joined EMI Electronics as director of defence projects, and at age 56 set up a joint venture on satellite communications with Hughes Aircraft of California. In 1982, he also started his own business consultancy, Medsales Executive. He continued to travel extensively, organising business conferences around the world. Two years ago he published a book, *Technocrats*, about the American scientist Dr Allen Crocker, whom he met through his work on the Christmas Island tests, and who became a close friend.

Oulton, who became a Fellow of the University of Wales, was a supremely fit man. After being RAF squash champion in his younger days, he was still playing in his eighties — and beating men half his age.

He married his first wife, Sarah ("Terry") in 1935. She died in 1990, and the following year he married his second wife, Leticia, an Argentine painter whom he had met in Buenos Aires, and who had become a friend of the family. She survives him, together with three sons from his first marriage.

## ELIZABETH FITZGERALD

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Principal of the City and Guilds of London Art School 1967-73, died on November 9 aged 77. She was born on October 26, 1920.



WHEN the Royal Academy Schools, where Elizabeth Fitzgerald was studying painting, was evacuated to Wales during the war, she characteristically chose to remain behind and do her bit in an engineering factory. When the war was over, she resumed her studies, but because the Academy had no printmaking facilities at the time, she additionally took printmaking and life drawing classes at the City and Guilds of London Art School in Kensington at weekends.

In 1948 she was awarded the Leverhulme Travelling Scholarship, and after a brief spell of teaching at St Maurs Convent in Weybridge, she joined the staff of the City and Guilds of London Art School. Her association with the school was to last for 48 years.

Elizabeth Amelia Fitzgerald had spent her childhood in London, and attended St Andrews Convent and then the Sacred Heart Convent. Her godmother was the Dowager Queen of Portugal, and her godfather the exiled King Manuel II of Portugal; the Portuguese Royal Family were then living near by at Fulwell Park in Twickenham.

Her mother was French, and the children grew up bilingual. They regularly spent

long holidays in France, visiting the Normandy coast.

At the City and Guilds, Fitzgerald rose from being Registrar in the 1950s to become Principal of the school in 1967. During her time there she breathed life into an establishment that could easily have died. She always stood her ground with great fortitude, sometimes alone, and over the years she built up a loyal and happy band of students and tutors — all of whom were practising artists. Like her, many students returned to teach once they had launched their careers, and so a particular ethos was maintained.

In 1971 the City and Guilds Institute withdrew its financial support. The newly independent school was able to continue — and to maintain its style of teaching — only because of the support of the

livery companies, in particular the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers and Drapers.

In 1972 Roger de Grey was approached, and agreed to become the new Principal, and the following year Fitzgerald stepped down. Fitzgerald and de Grey both wished to return to the school's original *raison d'être*: to provide training in carving, modelling and architectural decoration for those engaged in the local artistic industries.

Diploma craft and conservation courses, some of them unique, such as woodcarving and gilding and stonemasonry, were begun, reinforcing the strong painting and sculpture departments. When de Grey was appointed President of the Royal Academy in 1984, he was able to continue as Principal of the school largely because Fitzgerald, as Vice-Principal, dealt with most of the practical business. The association was, of course, of great benefit to the school.

Sadly, the last years of Fitzgerald's life were marred by constant ill-health. Yet, despite this, she put aside her retirement plans, on the unexpected death of Roger de Grey in 1995, to become acting Principal until the appointment of the new incumbent, Michael Kenny, went on supporting him through his first year in office.

In 1996 she moved to Salisbury to provide a home for her brother, Paul, and to be near her sister, Denise. She was not married.

## LORD WILSON OF LANGSIDE

Lord Wilson of Langside, Lord Advocate 1967-70, died on November 23 aged 81. He was born on March 21, 1916.

AS SCOTLAND'S senior law officer in a Labour administration, Harry Wilson refused to profit from the power of personal patronage that traditionally goes with the post of Lord Advocate. He refused to appoint himself to the Bench and was not afraid to cross swords with the most powerful Scottish judges of his day.

When the Tories won the 1970 election, he paid the price. Judicial promotion was not forthcoming and he spent the rest of his career in lesser, though significant, posts. Politically he grew disenchanted with Labour and joined the SDP when it broke away in 1981, remaining with its rump until 1982. He ended his days as a crossbencher in the House of Lords.

Henry Stephen Wilson, the youngest son of a solicitor of farming stock who held strong socialist beliefs, was educated at Glasgow High School and Glasgow University. War broke out before he could

complete his law degree, and in 1940 he joined the Army as a private. He was quickly commissioned in the Highland Light Infantry, served from 1940 to 1946 in the Royal Armoured Corps, and was wounded at Anzio during the Italian campaign.

In 1946, having completed his legal studies, he was called to the Scottish Bar and practised, but the pull of his politics remained strong. The socialism inherited from his father had been strengthened by the experience of growing up during the Depression.

He stood for Parliament twice in Dumfriesshire and once in Edinburgh West between 1950 and 1955, but those were the days of Tory dominance in Scotland and he began to think politics was not for him. In 1955 he was appointed to the shire bench in Greenock, moving to Glasgow, where he served from 1956 to 1965.

Somewhat to his surprise, politics reclaimed him. Labour was by now in power. The Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, appointed him Solicitor-General in 1965 and Lord Advocate two years later.



There was criticism that neither of the two Scottish law officers sat in Parliament, and in 1969 Harry Wilson found himself with a life peerage and a seat in the Lords.

Around this time he fell foul of the Scottish judiciary, then under the somewhat dictatorial stewardship of Lord President Clyde. The Tories, having dominated Scottish politics, were now in rapid decline and the SNP was beginning its rapid period of growth.

Edward Heath came to Perth in 1968 and committed

his party to a Scottish assembly. He asked for judicial nominations to the committee he set up under the chairmanship of Sir Alec Douglas-Home. A leading judge, Lord Avonside, accepted membership.

At this point Labour was still opposed to the principle of devolution. Lord Advocate Wilson felt Lord Avonside had breached the convention whereby active judges did not become involved in party politics and indicated that the appointment was unacceptable. The furious public controversy which followed was ended by Lord Avonside's resignation from the committee, but in the process Wilson had made an enemy of Lord Clyde.

As Labour's 1970 defeat approached, Wilson declined the usual exit route; his refusal to appoint himself to the Bench drew from Dr Dickson Maibon, then Minister of State at the Scottish Office, the comment: "You must be mad!" Any thoughts the incoming Lord Advocate, Norman (later Lord) Wylie, might have had of honouring tradition ran into determined resistance.

Wilson himself believed Clyde never forgave him. After a protracted negotiation, Wilson accepted an appointment as director of the Scottish courts administration, serving in this post until 1974. For the last two years of his legal career, until 1976, he presided, as Sheriff-Principal of Glasgow and Strathclyde, over the busiest sheriff court in Europe.

As a judge, he was down-to-earth and courteous, though there was on occasion what a colleague called "a dash of pepper". He believed the shrievalty bench to be an excellent training ground for the senior Bench, which traditionally drew its members from the Faculty of Advocates.

His experience of political office had disillusioned him. In particular, he was repelled by the manoeuvring of Harold Wilson and his kitchen cabinet. He remained active, however, chairing the Scotland Says No campaign, the cross-party group which helped to secure an indecisive vote in the 1979 devolution referendum.

His wife died last year; there were no children.

## Church news

## Appointments

The Rev David Abington, Assistant Curate, Newport with Longford, Cheshire, and Farnham (Lichfield), to be Vicar, Adderley, Ash, Lichfield with Calverhall, Moreton Say (same diocese).  
The Rev John Bailey, Diocesan Director of Education (Lincoln), to be also licensed general preacher (same diocese).  
The Rev David Beverley, Industrial Chaplain, Scunthorpe (Lincoln), to be Priest-in-Charge, Scunthorpe Resurrection Berkeley (same diocese).  
The Rev Timothy Buckley, Minister, Binley Woods LEP (Lincoln), to be Vicar, Belton in the Isle of Asholme (same diocese).  
The Rev John Cleaver, Vicar, Tedlington St Alban the Martyr (London), to be Kensington Area Chaplain for the Mothers' Union (same diocese).  
The Rev Malcolm Crook, Team Vicar Langley and Parkfield Team

Ministry (Manchester), to be Rector, Manchester Apostles with Miles Platting (same diocese).  
The Rev Jacques Desrochers, NSM Curate, Benenden (Canterbury), to be NSM Curate, Maidstone All Saints (same diocese).  
The Rev Jane Dicker, Curate, Littleham with Exmouth, and Chaplain, Exmouth Campus, Plymouth University (Exeter), to be Chaplain, Further and Higher Education, Grimsby (Lincoln).  
The Rev Dr Paul Dunn, Team Vicar, Wimbledon St Matthew (Southwark), to be Vicar, Ham St Richard (same diocese).  
The Rev Stephen Foster, NSM Curate, Aldrough and Mappleton with Goulth and Wetherwick (York), to be Team Vicar, Howden Team Ministry (same diocese).  
The Rev Jonathan Gibbs, Chaplain, Basle with Fribourg-Breisgau (Switzerland), to be Rector, Hensall (Cheshire).  
The Rev Malcolm Crook, Team Vicar Langley and Parkfield Team

Vicar, Anlaby (York), to be Vicar, Crowland (Lincoln).  
The Rev James Hawkins, Vicar, Anston Wilford Group (Lincoln), to be also Rural Dean of Loden (same diocese).

## Church of Scotland

Ordination and induction:  
The Rev Sigfrid Marken, to Govanhill Trinity, Glasgow.  
The Rev William Craig, from the Bruce Memorial, Cambusbarrow.  
The Rev John M Roy, from Livingstone, Stevenson.  
The Rev Ian U Macdonald, from Forthlinton.  
The Rev Fred C Muir, from Stepps.  
The Rev Eric J Alexander, from St George's, Glasgow.  
The Rev Archibald F Chisholm, from Braces of Rannoch with Foss and Rannoch.  
The Rev Robert Johnstone, from Aberlathwith with Laurendale.  
The Rev J.E. Stewart Low, from Tarbat.

Newlands South, Glasgow.  
Resignation:  
The Rev John V Gardner, from Presbytery of Lorn and Mull to Scots Church, Melbourne, Australia.  
Refugees:  
The Rev Bruce J.L. Hay, from Makerston and Smallholme with St Hill, Hume and Netheron.  
The Rev William Craig, from the Bruce Memorial, Cambusbarrow.  
The Rev John M Roy, from Livingstone, Stevenson.  
The Rev Ian U Macdonald, from Forthlinton.  
The Rev Fred C Muir, from Stepps.  
The Rev Eric J Alexander, from St George's, Glasgow.  
The Rev Archibald F Chisholm, from Braces of Rannoch with Foss and Rannoch.  
The Rev Robert Johnstone, from Aberlathwith with Laurendale.  
The Rev J.E. Stewart Low, from Tarbat.

## The Decision of the Lords

The House of Lords has decided the great issue submitted to it, after a debate which ended as it began, upon a high level of oratorical excellence and of argumentative power. By a majority of 350 to 75 it has carried Lord Lansdowne's amendment declaring that this House is not justified in giving its consent to this Bill until it has been submitted to the judgment of the country.

In taking this course the House of Lords is discharging its primary constitutional duty, a duty broader, deeper, and more important than the duty of the nation to comply with the superficial conventions of custom. A Second Chamber is by its essence the guardian in a peculiar sense of the great mass of things which the nation desires to conserve, just as the First Chamber is especially charged with the duty of carrying out changes required from year to year to meet changing circumstances.

When, according to the reasoned conviction of the Second Chamber, the proposed changes trench too deeply into what is permanent and organic, it becomes its duty to submit these changes to the judgment of the country. If the country decides against the proposed innovations the Second Chamber is fully justified. If the country accepts the novel proposals, the

## ON THIS DAY

December 1, 1909

## The Lords defeat Lloyd George's 'People's Budget'

"For raising money to wage warfare against poverty" — led to a general election in 1910. The Liberals were re-elected and in 1911 enacted the Parliament Bill, which curbed the powers of the Lords.

House of Lords does not call its decision in question. There may be in that case some impeachment of the judgment of the Second Chamber as erring on the side of caution, but not of faith to constitutional duty.

It is sometimes very difficult to decide whether given proposals are so serious a kind as to demand reference to the country. In the present case everything has been done to sway the House of Lords and the country by exaggerating the constitutional difficulties and practical inconveniences of submitting proposals to the country's judgment.

Arguments founded mainly and often

exclusively upon the presumed consequences to the House itself have been urged with great force and ability in the debate. We have never underrated their importance, but that importance must be held to be exaggerated when men like Lord Rosbery, though convinced that the proposed changes are fundamentally bad, allow such considerations to deter them from offering the only effective opposition.

There is now, however, an end of all questions of tactics, but the convictions of those who have so forcibly condemned the proposals of the Government must remain unchanged. Their course is therefore clear, and has been admirably stated by Lord Cromer. The field of battle may not be exactly what they would have preferred, but that makes no difference in the character of the contesting forces or of the issues which have to be decided.

Those who condemn the Government policy, whether upon the Budget or upon the attempt to efface the House of Lords altogether and to set up an omnipotent majority in the House of Commons, are bound to throw all their influence upon the side of the Unionist party in the coming election. Tariff reform may be unwelcome to many, as it is to Lord Cromer, but his dislike of it only adds force to his warning that it is immeasurably the smaller of two evils.









**FINAL WARNING**  
Why the Davis Cup must not be devalued  
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**SHARK HUNTER**  
Westwood lands big prize in Greg Norman's back yard  
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**THE MEN WHO FELL TO EARTH**  
England battered into submission by Springboks  
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Reports from all the Premiership matches  
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# TIMES SPORT

MONDAY DECEMBER 1 1997

## CHAMPIONSHIP PRETENDERS BRUSHED ASIDE AT OLD TRAFFORD



Solskjaer defies the attentions of Kenna, the Blackburn defender, to pounce on Sheringham's delicate chipped pass and fire United into the lead at Old Trafford yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

## United in a league of their own

By OLIVER HOLT  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE last time Manchester United played one of the pretenders to their throne, they threw them a little morsel, allowed them to think that there was hope. Yesterday, at Old Trafford, United retracted the largesse that they had extended to Arsenal and made Blackburn Rovers pay for the impudence of suggesting a challenge for the title. This time, there was no hint of weakness from the champions, just pure footballing ruthlessness.

During some periods of the second half, it seemed as though United were playing an exhibition game. They strolled as they played and smiled at mistakes. Alex Ferguson, their manager, joined in the jocular, laughing at the lousy cheers that greeted the every touch of a rare appearance by Brian McClair. This was a team utterly secure in its dominance.

The 4-0 win over their Lancashire rivals took their tally for November to 23 goals, and 20 in their past four home matches. They are rampant in the FA Carling Premiership as well as the European Cup Champions' League, steamrolling anyone who gets in their way. They are three points clear at the top of the table, but on the form that they showed yesterday, it might as well be 33.

Two goals from Ole Gunnar Solskjaer,

both clinical and expert finishes, started the rout and Blackburn contributed another two themselves with own goals from Stephane Henchoz and Jeff Kenna. Now they know the size of the task that lies ahead.

United have grown so much in stature, even in the course of this season, that they look like supermen. Butt and Berg, in particular, were kicked from pillar to post yesterday, but just like some footballing versions of Arnold Schwarzenegger in *The Terminator*, they kept getting up when everyone was sure they would have to stay down. To Blackburn, to everyone, United are taking on the collective aura of an indestructible machine.

Starting with five players in midfield and Chris Sutton alone in attack, Blackburn tried to choke United by blocking their routes down the flanks. Ferguson's team just plundered the middle road instead and, once behind, Rovers' defence-orientated team could find no way back. "We will have to learn once again to suck the bitter pill of defeat," Roy Hodgson, their manager, said afterwards.

Poor Sutton. So isolated was he in attack, so comprehensively shackled by Berg, his former team-mate, that frustration overwhelmed him. One late scything tackle on his tormentor earned him a yellow card and a stab at the shins of Butt

| MANCHESTER UNITED  | 4 | 0 | BLACKBURN ROVERS |
|--------------------|---|---|------------------|
| Solskjaer 28, 53   |   |   |                  |
| Henchoz 60 (og)    |   |   |                  |
| Kenna 85 (og)      |   |   |                  |
| Attendance: 55,175 |   |   |                  |

12 minutes after half-time produced the red. It was not quite the way that he would have wanted to celebrate the signing of his lucrative new contract at Ewood Park.

By then, the game was lost anyway. Blackburn, who before yesterday had

only conceded four goals away from home all season, did not manage a shot on target until 20 minutes from the end and Schmeichel saved that, from Gallacher, when he really had no right to. That apart, it was one-way traffic.

United had nearly gone ahead in the

tenth minute, when Flowers raced off his line to try to reach a long cross from Gary Neville that always seemed destined to elude him. Andy Cole leapt for it, too, and beat Flowers, but nodded the ball just wide of the right-hand upright before the goalkeeper flattened him.

Seven minutes later, though, United went ahead. Solskjaer, playing as the left-sided member of a front three, alongside Sheringham and Cole, received the ball with his back to goal, laid a neat ball back to Sheringham and span past his marker. Sheringham lifted it delicately over Kenna and back into the path of the Norwegian, who cushioned it on his chest and volleyed past Flowers with his left foot.

Tempers rose midway through the half as Sutton and Berg began their running feud and Butt and Sherwood swapped crunching fouls. If Solskjaer received most of the plaudits after the game, though, Berg deserved the man-of-the-match award for keeping cool and snuffing out Sutton single-handedly with a series of perfectly-timed tackles every bit as precise as Solskjaer's finishing.

Solskjaer provided the second example of his fine art eight minutes after the interval when Sheringham flicked Schmeichel's long kick into his path. He delayed momentarily to try to get Flowers to commit himself and then fired the ball decisively past him into the middle of the

net. That put the game out of reach; the rest just rubbed it in.

The United supporters baited Blackburn with cries of "Are you City in disguise?" and Rovers did their best to fit the description by sealing their own fate. Henchoz was first, turning Phil Neville's fiercely-struck cross past Flowers as Cole lurked, then Kenna made it even worse when he clipped McClair's harmless through-ball past his advancing goal-

|                  |    |
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| Celtic triumph   | 33 |

keeper five minutes from the end. Cole could have made it 5-0 in the dying seconds, but he pulled his shot just wide from ten yards out after chugging down a clever cross from Poborsky.

By then, it was all academic and Ferguson was left to reflect on a happy St Andrews Day. "God looks after a Scotsman," he said. "Don't worry about that."

**MANCHESTER UNITED (4-3-3):** P. Schmeichel — G. Neville, W. Berg, G. Pollack (subs: K. Pokorsky, 68m), P. Neville — D. Beckham, N. Butt (sub: R. Johnson, 65), R. O'Gara, E. Sheringham (sub: B. McClair, 75), A. Cole. O.G. Solskjaer.

**BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-5-1):** T. Flowers — J. Kenna, S. Hendrick, T. Pedersen, G. Crook — S. Rieley (sub: L. Bohinen, 62), W. McKinlay (sub: K. Gallacher, 66), T. Sherwood, G. Filizola, J. Wilcox (sub: D. Duff, 75) — C. Sutton.

\*Referee: A. Wilson

| Top of the table |    |    |   |   |    |    |     |     |  |  |
|------------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|--|--|
|                  | P  | W  | D | L | F  | A  | Pts | GD  |  |  |
| Manchester Utd   | 16 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 40 | 12 | 34  | +28 |  |  |
| Chelsea          | 16 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 35 | 17 | 31  | +18 |  |  |
| Wimbledon        | 16 | 8  | 6 | 2 | 27 | 17 | 30  | +10 |  |  |
| Leeds United     | 16 | 9  | 2 | 5 | 28 | 19 | 28  | +9  |  |  |
| Arsenal          | 16 | 7  | 8 | 1 | 30 | 18 | 27  | +12 |  |  |


  

| Results in recent years* |    |   |   |   |    |    |     |     |  |  |
|--------------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|--|--|
|                          | P  | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts | GD  |  |  |
| Manchester Utd           | 11 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 21 | 11 | 24  | +10 |  |  |
| Blackburn                | 11 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 21 | 6   | -10 |  |  |

\*In 11 Premiership matches between Manchester United and Blackburn since 1992, Blackburn have managed just one victory and three draws, securing six points out of a possible 33.

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SNOOKER: O'SULLIVAN BATTLES TO STAY IN TOUCH IN FINAL OF UNITED KINGDOM CHAMPIONSHIP

# Hendry clawed back by resilient rival

By PHIL YATES

STEPHEN HENDRY was halfway towards a fourth successive triumph in the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship and his sixth since 1989 when he led Ronnie O'Sullivan 5-4 after the first session of the final at Preston Guild Hall yesterday.

The Scot, who had grown in confidence as the 19-day competition progressed, never fell behind, but found pulling clear of O'Sullivan a problem that he could not solve. Twice, Hendry threatened to seize control but on both occasions O'Sullivan stood firm.

O'Sullivan's greatest asset is a refusal to be intimidated by any opponent, Hendry included. This is borne out by the fact that, with six victories from 14 meetings, he boasts the best record against Hendry of any leading player.

An 89 clearance enabled Hendry to strike the initial blow. He then won a disjointed second frame on the green and led 13-0 in the third, when O'Sullivan came to life. Two breaks of 78, the first launched by a fearless red to a middle pocket, enabled the 21-year-old to level the scores at 2-2.

When O'Sullivan subsequently enjoyed a 44-1 advantage in the fifth frame, Hendry looked in danger of being on the receiving end of an O'Sullivan purple patch. Just as suddenly, O'Sullivan started to misfire. He missed a straightforward red and Hendry eventually fashioned an outstanding 57 clearance to pink, moving 4-2 ahead with the aid of a well-crafted run of 67 in the sixth.

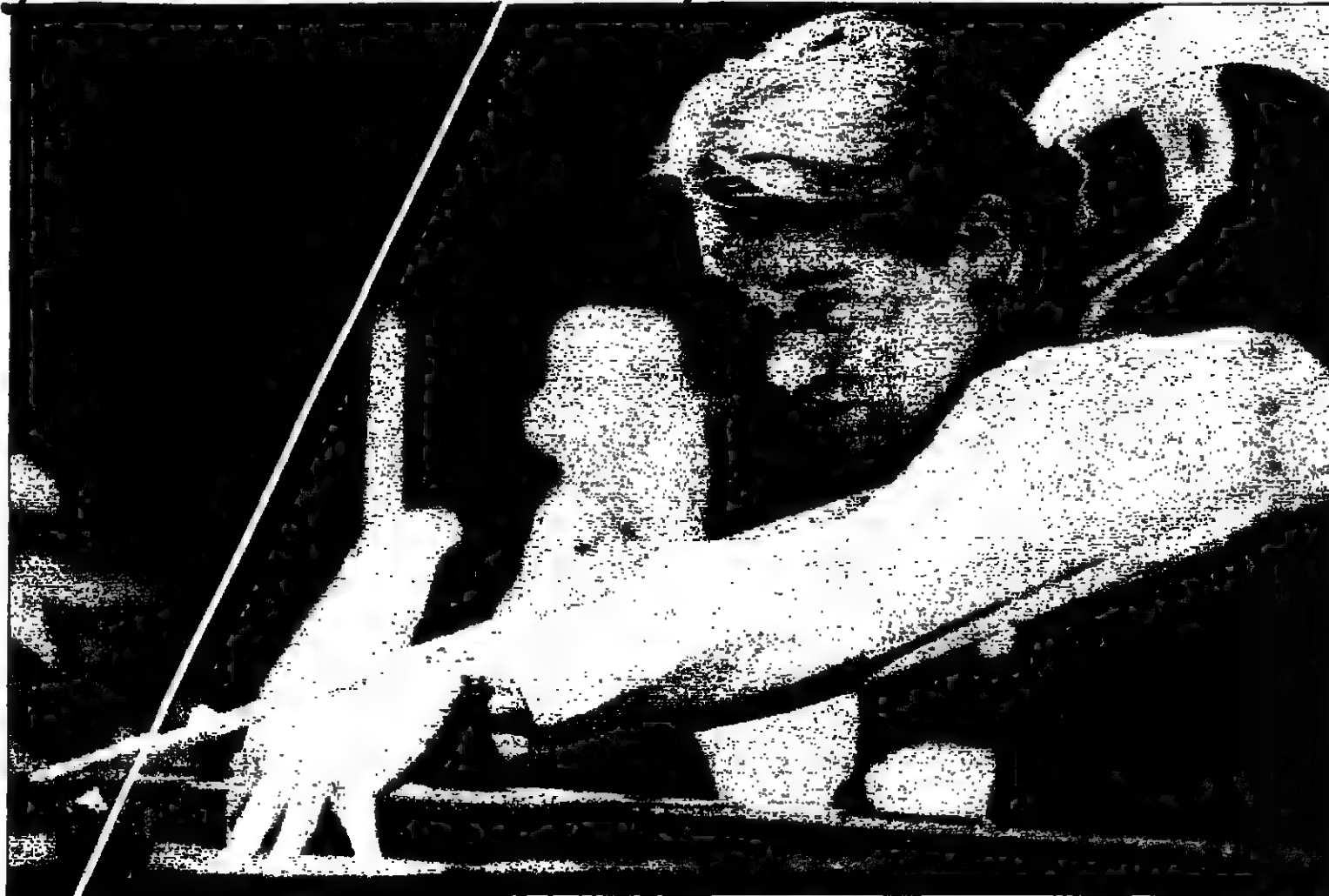
O'Sullivan won the next frame unspectacularly, but when Hendry, playing at a slightly more deliberate pace than usual, built a 5-3 lead with a 68 break, the momentum that had ebbed and flowed from the outset shifted once more.

Leading 33-0 in the closing frame of the session, Hendry was unfortunate when O'Sullivan unintentionally left the cue-ball awkwardly hanging in the jaw of a baulk pocket. An ineffective safety shot resulted and O'Sullivan pounced with a 98 clearance to remain in contention.

Hendry places great store on systematically erasing the achievement of Steve Davis, his greatest rival over the past decade, but not on present form, from the record books. As such, victory over O'Sullivan would be particularly sweet.

A successful defence of the United Kingdom title would install Hendry as the most prolific winner of world-ranking tournaments. He and Davis both had 28, but while Hendry has not added one since the International Open in February, Davis has been stuck on that figure since prevailing at the Regal Welsh Open in 1995.

"I don't really think a lot about statistics, but what one means a lot



Hendry secures an early advantage during the defence of his United Kingdom title in Preston yesterday. Photograph: Eric Whitehead

because it underlines consistency." Hendry, who has comprehensively eclipsed Davis in terms of total prize money earned and century breaks compiled, said.

Hendry has converted 64 of his 84 appearances in finals, but, frustratingly, has lost his past three. He was

beaten 9-2 by Mark Williams in the climax to the British Open, 18-12 by Ken Doherty in the Embassy world championship and, perhaps most significantly, 10-8 by O'Sullivan in the European League.

Considering what was at stake last night, Hendry had to cope with a

substantially heavier burden of pressure than his rival. It was a similar scenario to the one in 1993, when O'Sullivan defeated him 10-6 to become, one week short of his 18th birthday, the youngest player to lift a world-ranking trophy.

Hendry required five of the re-

maining ten frames to collect the £75,000 first prize while O'Sullivan, winner of an invitation tournament in China three months ago, needed six to become the first player this season to capture two titles.

FINAL: S Hendry (2nd) beats R O'Sullivan (1st) 4-2. Frame scores: Hendry first: 103-28, 75-37, 13-78, 11-115, 62-44, 66-14, 24-87, 72-21, 32-95.

## Rift with Williams puts McKenzie's job in jeopardy

By PHIL YATES

THE political infighting that blighted snooker last year seems likely to reignite today when a board meeting of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) convenes to discuss the future of its chief executive, Jim McKenzie.

Differences between McKenzie, who was only appointed during the summer, and Rex Williams, the WPBSA chairman, have re-

sulted in a potential rift that could create a climate of instability that the game can ill afford.

Ian Doyle, recognised as snooker's most influential manager — his clients include Stephen Hendry, Ronnie O'Sullivan and Ken Doherty, the world champion — is enraged that McKenzie faces the probability of losing his job. Hendry, usually reluctant to become embroiled in such disputes, describes the situation as "an absolute disgrace".

Joe Beeston, the chief executive of Highland Spring, the new sponsor of the Scottish Open next February, has publicly stated that his company will withdraw its support if the WPBSA board, which meets today near Preston, decides to sack McKenzie.

If he is dismissed, Doyle, who controls 15 votes in the WPBSA's limited electorate of 48, will demand a special general meeting at which he will call for the removal of Williams as chairman.

"I supported Rex on the clear understanding that a management team would be appointed and given the freedom to manage the sport's affairs," he said.

Jim Chambers, a WPBSA board member who believes McKenzie should be retained, is bemused by the whole affair. "Nothing I've seen or heard has convinced me that Jim isn't doing a first-rate job," he said. Meanwhile, Williams has refused to comment until after today's meeting.

Karen Corr, of Northern Ireland, maintained her stranglehold on the women's game by completing a hat-trick of United Kingdom championship wins in Preston yesterday.

She beat Lynette Horsburgh, of Blackpool, the world No 8, 4-3 in a low-scoring final — the highest break was 36 — after trailing 3-2. It was a fifth successive tournament victory for Lincolnshire-based Corr, 28, who is the world champion and world No 1.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

### No relegation in drastic shake-up

By CHRISTOPHER IRVING

UPHEAVAL is hardly new to rugby league, but the 1998 Super League season incorporates more than the usual number of changes and includes no relegation for the 12 clubs, a mid-season break for international competition in July and a Superbowl-style grand final to determine the champions.

The league programme will start later than usual, at the McAlpine Stadium on April 3, when promoted Huddersfield Giants meet Bradford Bulls, last season's champions, under the first-past-the-post system that has now been abandoned after 25 years in favour of a top five play-off series.

Until 1973, play-off matches were a feature of the championship for more than 60 years. The latest system is based on the model in Australia and will take place over four weekends when the league programme is completed on September 27. The final will replace the Premiership finale at Old Trafford.

How the three-week break in July will be filled has still to be precisely determined. A triangular tournament featuring Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand and a simultaneous home international series are under consideration, as are short tours by New Zealand and Western Samoa next autumn, in the likelihood of the World Cup being postponed.

The First and Second Division Clubs Association (Fasda) wants a single division outside the Super League next season, but, at the Rugby League Council meeting at Salford on Wednesday, its members will oppose the expulsion of Keighley and Workington from the Rugby Football League (RFL) as the two clubs are insolvent. The proposal can only be passed if four of the 19 association clubs were to vote with the 12 Super League clubs.

OPENING FIXTURES: Super League: April 3, Huddersfield Giants v Bradford Bulls; April 5, Leeds Rhinos v Warrington Wolves; London Broncos v Halifax Blue Bulls; Sale Sharks v St Helens; Sheffield Eagles v Hull Sharks; Wigan Warriors v Castleford Tigers.

## HOCKEY: READING TAKE A PAINFUL TUMBLE IN CUP AND LEAGUE

### Tigers claw way into the last eight

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

READING, Southgate, Old Loughtonians and Hounslow failed to survive the fifth round of the EHA Men's Cup yesterday as Cannock and Canterbury staked their claims to places among the last eight.

The scalps of Reading and Southgate were claimed by Barford Tigers and Beeston respectively, while Old Loughtonians and Hounslow were losers at Cannock and Canterbury.

The lead that Ashdown had given Reading in the second minute proved unavailing as Dharminder Singh hit back for Barford Tigers, the home side, with a goal from open play in the 26th minute and another from a penalty stroke eight minutes before the end.

Southgate, the visitors, were 3-0 down in 24 minutes against Beeston before Antala and Simons replied two minutes before and after the interval. For Beeston, Keegan scored twice, the first goal from a short corner, with Randall adding to the score.

Cannock recovered from an early setback to establish a 4-2 lead and held on to their advantage after Dover had scored for Old Loughtonians in the sixtieth minute.

Canterbury were 4-2 winners against Hounslow with Humphries, Mathews, Hacker and Cummings sharing the spoils. Whalley and Rose replied for Hounslow.

Doncaster, after trailing 2-1 at half-time, recovered to beat St Albans 3-2 at Clarence Park and join Chichester, Stourport and Old Cranleighans in the quarter-finals.

It was a disappointing weekend for Reading, who slipped to fifth position in the premier division of the National League on Saturday after losing 3-2 to Teddington, leaving Cannock still at the top, a point ahead of Southgate and East Grinstead, with Canterbury knocking at the door in fourth position.

Greg Nicoll consolidated his position as top scorer with six goals, five from short corners, in the 8-2 defeat of Firebrands.

HIGHTOWN, the holders, cruised into the last 16 of the EHA Women's Cup by beating the first division high-flyers, Canterbury, 3-1 yesterday. In the process, they emphasised the gulf in standards between the divisions.

Despite an early penalty miss by Kate Walsh, Hightown took a commanding lead with two goals each from Lucy Newcombe and Jo Bradburn against Jackie Empson's lone reply. Walsh atoned for her miss with a successful penalty conversion almost on time.

In a high-scoring round, Olton defeated Taunton Vale 9-0, with Sally Wright and Mandy Gatherer claiming hat-tricks. Lisa Hunter went one better by scoring four in Chelmsford's 6-1 victory over Southampton. Sutton Coldfield regained their scoring touch with an 8-1 win over Swindon, in which Sarah Kent scored a hat-trick.

Clifton's long journey to Whitley Bay had a successful 6-1 conclusion, while the cup

favourites, Slough, found scoring surprisingly difficult, eventually winning 2-1 at the first division strugglers, Bradford. Doncaster had a walkover into the last 16 when Bluebirds withdrew.

In Saturday's Premier League programme, the leaders, Slough, increased their impressive goal tally to 41 in seven games by beating Hightown 4-1 after leading 3-0 at half-time.

Clifton carried on their winning ways with a 3-1 victory over Sutton Coldfield that added to the Midlands' relegation worries.

Olton's run of success continued with a 3-1 away victory over Trojans, while Doncaster picked up only their second league point with a hard-fought 2-2 home draw against Ipswich.

In the first division, Leicester maintained their three-point lead with a 3-0 win at Bradford, but the second division leaders, Woking, lost 2-1 and the top spot to Old Loughtonians.

## SPORT IN BRIEF

### Panthers storm ahead to set pace in Superleague

■ **ICE HOCKEY:** Nottingham Panthers are the new leaders of the Superleague (Norman de Mesquita writes). A 3-2 win over Basingstoke Bison on Saturday, after a 5-3 success against Manchester Storm in midweek, enabled them to leapfrog the Storm and take a one-point lead at the top of the table. After a scoreless first period, Darren Hurley scored the only goal of the second to give the Bison the lead. After three minutes of the final session, Derek Laxdal brought the Panthers level, but, when Greg Gatto scored for the Bison with just under six minutes remaining, an upset looked on the cards. However, goals by Paul Adey and Jeff Sebastian gave Nottingham the points, the winning goal coming with just 19sec on the clock.

In Saturday's only other game, Bracknell Bees beat Ayr Eagles to move into fifth place, just two points behind the Scottish side. Wayne Bucsis was the main contributor to Bracknell's success, scoring two goals, including the winner with only 4sec remaining in overtime.

### Olsson lifts British morale

■ **BOBBSLEIGHING:** Sean Olsson, of Great Britain, was celebrating his first bobsleigh medal in leading competitions last night after finishing third in the second round of the World Cup Tour in Winterberg, Germany. Olsson and his Zanesse crew of Dean Ward, Courtney Rumbolt and Paul Atwood produced the fastest time of 54.59sec on the second and final run to win the bronze medal by just 0.02sec.

Their aggregate time of 1min 49.52sec was only 0.08sec slower than Brian Shimer, of the United States, who won the gold medal by 0.02sec from Harald Czudaj, of Germany. The result was a boost to British hopes of winning an Olympic medal at the Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, in February. Two weeks ago, Olsson finished sixth in the four-man event at the opening World Cup race in Calgary.

### Essex men into the last eight

■ **BOWLS:** Essex, who have never won the Liberty Trophy, came back from a 12-shot deficit at half-time to defeat Kent 119-106 on Saturday and secure a place in the quarter-finals of the national inter-county championship. Not even the presence of the former world indoor pairs champions, Gary Smith and Andy Thomson, could save Kent from defeat. Two counties — Cornwall and Hampshire — lost their final round-robin matches to Dorset and Berkshire respectively, but still survived to qualify for the last eight, thanks to their performances in their opening games.

### Thaxton hangs on to his title

■ **BOXING:** John Thaxton retained his World Boxing Organisation and International Boxing Federation light-welterweight titles by defeating Rinvidas Bilias, of Latvia, at the Norwich Sports Village on Saturday night. Although Thaxton was worth his victory, he could not knock out an extremely durable opponent and had to be content with a points victory. Michele Piccirillo, of Italy, became the new European Boxing Union welterweight champion after beating Geoff McCreech, of Great Britain, on a technical knockout in Novara, Italy.

### Late rule change brings relief

■ **TENNIS:** Great Britain, beaten 2-0 by France in their final match, were saved from relegation from the first division of the European women's team championship at Barking-side yesterday by a sudden change of rules. Despite beating Austria, the group winners, on Saturday, Britain finished bottom after losing to both Sweden and France and were resigned to relegation — but then came last-minute relief when they were informed by the European Tennis Association that they would not go down as next year the first division would be enlarged to two groups of six, instead of two groups of four.

### Forster leaves Searle trailing

■ **ROWING:** Stefan Forster, of Germany, snatched the British indoor championship from Greg Searle at Reading yesterday. Forster, a world championship gold medal-winner in 1995, led from the start and was a length ahead of Searle with 500 metres to race. Searle, back in training for just three weeks since his recent marriage, failed to produce his usual final burst and lost second place in the last few strokes to Louis Abteil, who was No 3 in the Great Britain eight last summer. Thames RC produced a clean sweep of medals in the women's open class.

### Law breezes past Frenchman

■ **SAILING:** Chris Law, of Great Britain, beat Thierry Peppinet, of France, 3-0 on Saturday to win the Bayona Match Racing championship in Spain, his third Grade 1 victory of the year. Law, sailing with his regular crew of Julian Salter, James Stagg and Andy Hemmings, with Ben Ainslie making another guest appearance as "breeze sniffer", reached the final after posting a 3-0 win over Jochen Schumacher, of Germany, in the semi-finals. This week, Law, who is ranked No 6 in the world, competes in his last Grade 1 event of the year in the US Virgin Islands.

### Baker has edge in sprint finish

■ **CYCLING:** David Baker, who in recent years has made a lucrative living from mountain bike races, yesterday showed that he has lost none of the skill demanded by cyclo-cross events with a sprint victory in the 28-kilometre international race on a new circuit at Eastway, Stratford, East London. The Yorkshire rider, one of a few to win a British junior and senior open cyclo-cross title, found an extra fraction of speed to beat Roger Hammond, the former world junior champion, by a bicycle length as the pair headed the sh-strong leading group to the finishing line.

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## Oxford gamble boosts league

By TONY HOUARE

OXFORD have taken a financial gamble and rescued the Elite League from possible collapse. The Cheetahs will step up from the Premier League under the control of Steve Purchase, a Swindon-based businessman. Dave Pavitt, who has promoted at Oxford for the past two seasons, is stepping down.

Purchase confirmed his takeover of the Sandy Lane club at the British Speedway Promoters' Association conference in Lanzarote last week. The withdrawal of Bradford and Peterborough's decision to drop down into the Premier League reduced the sport's top level to just eight clubs, raising questions over its feasibility for 1998.

However, the takeover at Oxford and their elevation to the Elite has saved the league, which was hailed as a success on the track in its first season

this year. The financial strain of competing at the highest level persuaded most Premier League clubs to stay put, but Oxford has a track record in the sport's top division and the changes at Bradford and Peterborough mean plenty of riding talent is available.

The Cheetahs were the most successful speedway team in the Elites, winning three first division titles. Peterborough's drop into the Premier League compensates the sport's lower level, which is also boosted by news of a new track entering the league.

A team is set to operate next season at a circuit that has not staged speedway since the mid-1950s, with strong speculation pointing to a venue near Northampton, where Bradfield last operated in 1967. Further good news for the

Premier League came when Long Eaton announced that they were almost sure to be saved from closure. Their Station Road home is set to be bought by a consortium of Nottingham businessmen who want speedway, stock-car and greyhound racing to continue at the venue.

With the Isle of Wight moving up to the Premier League and Glasgow virtually certain not to compete next year, it leaves the second tier with 14 clubs, the same as in 1997. The Premier League has also placed a ban on new work permit applications from non-European Union riders to encourage development of young British talent.

John Louis has resigned as England team manager. His decision was expected after discontent from some senior internationals last summer almost led to a strike.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES



TENNIS

# Sweden rise above crippling schedule with cup triumph

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN GÖTTERBURG

THE abiding memory of the 1997 Davis Cup final, in which Sweden whitewashed the United States 5-0, is one of immense frustration. An exciting contest was fractured beyond repair when Pete Sampras, the United States' highest trump, limped out of the tie on Friday night. One may dismiss Sampras's injury as a cruel twist of fate, but the truth is more painful. He was the latest casualty in a political stand-off that is seriously undermining the sport.

Two weeks before this anti-climactic final, decided in Sweden's favour by Jonas Björkman and Nicklas Pietrangeli's 6-4, 6-4 doubles victory against Todd Martin and Jonathan Stark on Saturday, the eight-man world championship was similarly compromised when Greg Rusedski and Sergi Bruguera withdrew halfway through the ATP Tour's annual showpiece. They were the lucky ones: Goran Ivanisevic and Richard Krajicek were injured in the final sprint for places.

Such an attritional schedule would prompt dismay in other sporting authorities. In tennis, the response has been to increase the workload. As two leading factions jostle for player commitment, the sports showcase events are coming apart at the seams.

This should have been a final to savour. Unusually for a tennis event, all three days in the Scandinavium were a sell-

out as Sweden embraced the concept of team sport. Local journalists were adamant that a regular ATP Tour final involving Sampras and Björkman, Sweden's tallest man, would never have filled the auditorium. Tennis, when played by individuals for their own gain, no longer generates sufficient public interest.

The Davis Cup should be of paramount importance to those responsible for the game's long-term health. The competition fills stadiums and attracts larger television audiences than tournaments staged by the ATP Tour, which has no influence over this competition. Yet the Tour's response to the demands of the Davis Cup is to clutter the weekly schedule with tournaments of huge financial benefit to the players but minimal interest to the public.

Consequently, the leading players, money-making machines par excellence, are too busy coming in to commit themselves to four Davis Cup ties annually. By relegating the public's interest in this competition below the level of their own, they are committing a grave disservice.

Even for the two matches yesterday, which were strictly of academic interest, the Scandinavium was packed with Swedes celebrating their country's success in a world event. They arrived with their drums and their horns, their

whistles and their plastic rattles and with a spirit so infectious that the Sweden players joined in the Mexican waves during change-overs.

The International Tennis Federation (ITF), which runs the Davis Cup and the grand slams, is hardly blameless in making overbearing demands of players. In September, many players were enticed to the \$6 million Grand Slam Cup in Munich immediately after some punishing Davis Cup assignments. Such grotesquely valuable tournaments no longer have a place in sport: their absurd purses serve only to alienate the public.

Those defending the demanding playing schedule point to Björkman's achievements this year as evidence to the contrary. Although Björkman has won more matches than Sampras has played, one does not celebrate an endurance test for the few who complete the course when the greater majority have fallen by the wayside.

Sampras maintained on Saturday that his strained calf muscle is the legacy of a season that unfolds over 11 punishing months. It is not so much the number of matches that he has played, but the time-span over which they are scheduled. Mindful of contemporaries such as Becker and Stich, who have recently retired before their 30th birthdays, Sampras wants to remain active beyond that.

Tom Gullickson, the United States captain, struck the right chord in the wake of his team's capitulation. "The [ITF's] grand-slam events are the sacred grandfathers of the game and the ATP Tour has its own agenda, so the Davis Cup gets the short end of the stick," he said. "In my book, the Davis Cup comes second to the grand slams and should be treated as such. Players should not be so dead tired when the final comes round. The season should be spread over ten months, maybe even nine."

Gullickson also made the most pertinent observation of the weekend, when he described the ITF and ATP as "the alphabet" of the game. The image conjured by his words was wholly appropriate: sheer weight of money threatens to reduce the game to the sad realm of boxing. The squabbling factions in tennis are in danger of letting the sport's soul slip away, unnoticed, into the night.



Aamir times his shot through the leg side for a boundary on his way to a half-century as Pakistan rally in Rawalpindi

## West Indies let their chance slip

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN RAWALPINDI

PAKISTAN ended the second day of the second Test match against West Indies in a much healthier position than they began it. At stumps, they were 122 for two, 181 runs behind the touring team, but, on a slow pitch, they will expect to gain a decent first-innings lead and then hope that Mushtaq Ahmed can find some purchase for his leg spin as the pitch wears.

West Indies, on the other hand, will be disappointed with their total. Campbell and Chandepaul did them proud with a fifth-wicket stand of 147, after the first four had gone for 58, but neither man went on to make the big score that the team was looking for. Campbell spread his 78 runs over 77 overs of dogged resistance and Chandepaul was five short of a century when he was leg before to Waqar.

Restored to the Pakistan team after being left out for no apparent reason at Peshawar, Waqar had taken the wickets of Stuart Williams and Lara on the first day. Lara was completely fooled by the ball's inswinging yorker, and he departed feeling a little foolish, though not so foolish as Hooper, who nicked his third ball to the wicketkeeper.

Unusually, there were no wickets for Mushtaq, but there were four for Azhar Mahmood, the promising all-

rounder, who made a century on his Test debut against South Africa two months ago. There were also two for Shoaib Akhtar, who, by being selected here, became Pakistan's 150th Test cricketer.

Chandepaul deserved his hundred, but this is not the best of times for batsmen in the nineties. Blewett, of Australia, and Ganguly, of India, made 99 on the same day last week and now the little Trinidadian was obliged to drink from the cup of sorrow. He was hit on the back foot as he

shuffled across his stumps when Waqar switched to bowling around the wicket. Chandepaul, 23, must wonder when he is going to cross the Rubicon: this is his 23rd Test and, although he has passed 50 on 15 occasions, he has only once gone on to make a century, against India earlier this year.

Were it not for David Williams, who contributed 48 doughty runs, West Indies would have been bowled out for fewer than 300. Once again, their batting frailties

were apparent and David Lloyd, the England coach, saw enough to encourage him before England go to the Caribbean next month.

The lack of discipline extended to their bowling. Walsh, Ambrose and Bishop gifted Pakistan 13 runs in no-balls and wides. Even when their efforts were legitimate, they bowled too short too often and Rose, the fourth pace bowler, looked the pick of them. He had Ijaz caught at third man when the batsman attempted a familiar, lofted cut.

Ambrose had got Saeed by then, caught behind during an over that included four boundaries, but this is not a pitch on which to bang the ball in. Pakistan must now try to bat throughout the third day and build a sizeable lead against opponents whose ragged ground fielding indicated a loss of spirit.

Lara let Bishop down badly when he dropped Aamir on 38. Reprieved, Aamir completed his half-century in a composed mood that contrasted sharply with the way he had set off.

The shot of the day was his, a six off Bishop that deposited the ball into the crowd at square leg. Inzamam, batting within himself, settled for the morning. If this partnership continues beyond lunchtime, West Indies will be worried.

Scoreboards, page 41

## Fleming gambles after Horne century

STEPHEN FLEMING, the New Zealand captain, made an imaginative declaration to revive the possibility of a result in the rain-affected third Test against Australia at the Bellerive Oval in Hobart.

Fleming made his move towards the end of the fourth day, when New Zealand were 251 for six, 149 runs behind Australia's first innings total. By the close, Australia were 14 without loss, a lead of 163 with a minimum of 90 overs to be bowled on the final day.

A maiden Test century by

Matthew Horne, who was only playing because Blair Pocock was injured, put New Zealand in the position to declare. Horne made 133 in 326 minutes, including nine fours and two sixes, before he was caught at mid-on by Matthew Elliott off Paul Reiffel.

The second Test between India and Sri Lanka in Nagpur was abandoned as a draw after rain prevented any play on the fifth day. Rain had washed away nearly 2½ days' play since Friday afternoon.



Kulti commands the net while Björkman looks on during the doubles victory that secured the Davis Cup for Sweden

## GOLF: BRITON EDGES OUT NORMAN'S BID FOR TITLE HAT-TRICK

# Westwood confirms his maturity

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN MELBOURNE

LEE WESTWOOD wants to be the world's No 1 golfer one day and he showed yesterday that it is no idle dream by outlasting Greg Norman, the present No 1, to win the Australian Open at the Metropolitan Club in Melbourne. When Norman, who was the defending champion, three-putted at the fourth extra hole of an enthralling tussle, he handed victory to the 24-year-old from Worksop.

It was a head-to-head battle all day, with the crowd, so keen to see Norman win the title for the third successive year — only Ossie Pickworth, from 1946-1948, has achieved the hat-trick — impressed by the personable Pom's persistence. Westwood, who played the last nine holes in one under par after a patchy outward half, picked up two shots in the last two holes when Norman, out of rhythm and sorts all week, tangled with trees at the 17th to run up a bogey five and three-putted the 18th for another bogey.

During a play-off so tense that Laurie Coltart, the fiancée of Westwood, could hardly contain herself, Norman faltered again at the treacherous 18th, three-putting for another bogey.

In the final round, Norman had returned a 73 and Westwood a 72 for a total of 274, 14 under par, one shot ahead of Craig Parry, the stocky Australian, who charged into the picture with a 65. Andrew Coltart, of Scotland, Westwood's future brother-in-law, who won the Australian PGA Championship the previous Sunday, finished sixth on 280 — a St Andrew's Day result less satis-



Victory salute: Westwood acknowledges the applause after his Australian Open win at the fourth extra hole

factory that it might have been, because he dropped two shots in the course of the last three holes.

Norman denied that what happened in the Open here in 1979 had crossed his mind. Then 24, he three-putted the last to lose by a shot to Jack Newton, but won the first of his five home Opens the following year. Now 42, Norman said that he did not think winning becomes any easier the older he gets. "It's still nerve-racking, you're still trying to perform," he said.

And, of course, there are the youngsters hungry for success, ready to devour even the Great White Shark should he show any sign of weakness. Norman was impressed with Westwood, the Europe No 3, who has had a phenomenal run of three victories, a second and a 21st place in the past five weeks.

"I was impressed with Lee when I played with him at the Open Championship at Troon, this year," Norman said. "He's strong. He hits a lot of good shots when he needs to and he goes at the ball very aggressively. He has the capa-

bilities and the qualities to be in the top 10 in the world."

On a hot, dusty day when the duel in the sun between the world No 1 and a would-be No 1 fizzled rather than fizzed, it was Westwood's stickability that impressed most. Both players misfired, struggling to find a rhythm and hit a fairway in a breeze that made judgment awkward.

The first nine holes were particularly messy. "The way I played the front nine was pretty bad and, if anything, I let it go there," was Norman's assessment.

On Saturday, Norman had tried to strangle the championship with an opening charge of four birdies and an eagle in the first six holes. Only Westwood was there with him at the end of 54 holes, having hauled his way back into contention as Norman erred under — almost literally, for a torrential downpour caused play to be suspended briefly. Yesterday, they both drove badly at the 1st, but Norman saved par and Westwood bogeyed, to drop two behind.

The Englishman drove into a bunker at the 5th and failed to get out of the sand with his second shot. "He's gone," people muttered, while Laurie held her head. However, her man rescued his five, a bogey, while Norman wound up with a double-bogey six and even Laurie had to laugh when a youth described the two players as "rabbits". "I've never heard Lee called that before," she said.

Norman birdied the three par fives on the front nine, but still went out in 38, one over. Westwood, also out in 38, lost ground when Norman had a birdie two at the 11th, but the real drama was yet to come.

BASKETBALL

## Bucknall's scoring power lifts England

By NICHOLAS HARLING

SPAIN overcame a determined and fast-improving England 92-76 to take their expected place at the top of group C in the semi-final round of the European championships at the Plymouth Pavilion on Saturday.

Displaying all of Sir Francis Drake's spirit, much of his resolution but not, unfortunately, quite enough of his craft, England stayed in the game long enough to earn the plaudits of their coach, Laszlo Nemeth.

"The players gave a tremendous effort," he said. "We were not too inferior to a team that is a powerhouse in Europe."

Spain were fifth in the recent European championship finals and inevitably proved too strong for willing hosts who had struggled to overcome Denmark in Copenhagen three days previously.

Yet Spain could never completely subdue Steve Bucknall, who enjoyed the personal satisfaction of finishing as the game's top scorer with 23 points. Time and again in the first half, Bucknall powered his way towards the Spanish basket, only for fouls to halt his progress.

However, his fallibility at the free throw line let Spain off lightly. "They knew that Bucknall was the danger man, which is why they paid him such special attention at all times," Nemeth said.

Bucknall's 12 successive points and two free throws from John Amaechi — second to Bucknall with 19 points — had kept England in the game until seven minutes from half-time, when they led 30-28. It was then that the third of five three-pointers from the outstanding Alberto Herreros precipitated a Spanish revival of nine successive points that was effectively the end of England.

Spain led 51-38 at the interval and later, when they were 22 points up, had more than enough in hand to withstand an England response of 16-6. The rally was sparked by the belated introduction of the 7ft 2in Ian Whyte, which gave England the height to match the Spaniards.

The service provided from the back court by Silas Cheung in only his second international was another source of encouragement for England.

"Spain were only better than us in little aspects," Nemeth said. "I passionately believe that England is a team that can take the biggest leap forward in Europe."

Nemeth would be prouder still if England can maintain the good work against Ukraine in Guildford on Wednesday.

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## FOOTBALL

# New dawn fades as Leeds grow stronger

THE weather was more Rotherham than Rio, the setting a mile less imposing than the Maracana, but, as the rain lashed Yorkshire on Saturday and Leeds United were being submerged by a torrent of attacks, it was just like watching Brazil for those buoyant, fantasising Barnsley supporters swaying to a Samba beat in the sodden stands at Oakwell.

Fantasy? Not in the eighth minute, when Barnsley broke the length of the field to take the lead with a goal that cried out for Cliff Morgan's commentary. A clearing header under impossible pressure ... Brilliant! A swivel by Redfern to unleash the perfect defence-splitting pass ... Brilliant! A 40-yard dash by Liddell and a shot that Martyn somehow parried ... Brilliant! and a goal from Liddell on the rebound ... What a score!

Fantasy? Not in the 29th minute either, when the advantage was deservedly doubled. Bullock made the incision in the Leeds defence. Redfern let fly with a shot too hot — or too slippery — for Martyn to hold and Ward lashed the loose



BARNSELY 2  
LEEDS UNITED 3

By Keith Pike

board, put a smile on our faces and come out again next week down the road at Hillsborough. You could almost hear him thinking: "Another derby, another team in its best form of the season. Oh, joy!"

It will, indeed, take more than stoicism and fervour to keep this team up. For all the fluency of their opening burst, Barnsley had, in Wilson's words, failed "to do the dirty things" as well as the beautiful and he did not mean the predictably frantic tackling that saw Mike Read, the referee, flourish his yellow card on no fewer than nine occasions (Leeds won that particular contest too, 6-3).

Wilson had in mind the basic requirements of marking, the lack of which allowed Hasland a free header to spark Leeds' response in the 34th minute of decisiveness, absent when De Zeuw permitted Martyn's huge punt to set up Wallace for the 79th-minute equaliser; of ruthlessness, missing when Wallace skated past Markstedt to cross for Lilley to win the match at the near post four minutes later. Barnsley tried too early, while their opponents merely grew stronger.

Would Leeds have retained the stomach for the fight had Liddell's header made it 3-1 in the 57th minute instead of being cleared off the line by Robertson? Who knows. What is not in doubt is that George Graham's side have now won four in a row, the past three times from behind, and, while they lack the flair of Manchester United, Chelsea and — horror of horrors — Arsenal, their resilience and powers of organisation are second to none and they cannot be written off as championship pretenders.

Not that Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager, was unduly morose, nor that the supporters ever threatened to turn on their heroes. When your team has regularly been thrashed to within a gip of its dignity, it is no disgrace to go down to a side boasting the best form in the FA Carling Premiership. Wilson drew enough encouragement from that breathtaking opening salvo to believe that Barnsley are not a lost cause.

It was disappointing, sure, but we are not down," Wilson said. "We'll get back to the drawing

BARNSELY (4-4-2): L. Lines — N. Eadie, A. de Zeuw, P. McKeown, D. Bennett — M. Bullock (sub: M. Appleby, 80min), J. Bosman (sub: A. Moore, 72), E. Twinkl, N. Redfern — A. Ward, A. Liddell (sub: G. Hildrew, 67).

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N. Martyn — G. Hildrew (sub: A. Maybury, 46), D. Westwood, L. Radford, D. Robertson, G. Kelly, A. Hasland (sub: M. Jensen, 69), L. Beattie (sub: D. Lilley, 76), B. Ribeiro — R. Wallace, J. F. Hasselbaink.

Referee: M. Reed



Ginola, who was the catalyst for Tottenham's second-half revival, celebrates his goal against Everton at Goodison Park.

## Fans jeer Johnson as crisis deepens

HIS pale features fixed firmly downwards, Peter Johnson stepped tentatively from the tunnel at Goodison Park. He was heading across the pitch, away from the sound of supporters still demonstrating in the street.

The plan was for the Everton chairman to escape through a back entrance, avoiding the anger of about 500 diehards who braved the evening drizzle to express their desperation. He could not, though, avoid all confrontation.

As Johnson carefully picked his way through the field of mud that Goodison had become after a heavy downpour, a disaffected groundsman waved his pitchfork violently in the direction of the chairman — and the burly minders surrounding him — screaming at them to get off his pitch with such an intensity that a punch-up almost broke out.

It was a moment that encapsulated Johnson's lonely position at the helm of a club that remains rooted at the foot of the FA Carling Premiership. Defeat — and a quite desperate one at that — to a Tottenham Hotspur side in almost as much trouble in-

duced a sit-in by thousands of supporters, followed by that more aggressive abuse in the street afterwards.

The taunts were cruel. "Where's the money gone?" they sang. Then: "We want Johnson out." Claims that the chairman sees Everton only as a way to make money have been accentuated by the purchase only of journeymen since Howard Kendall took charge as manager in the summer.

Yet Johnson denies the supporters' allegations, maintaining that he is committed to the Everton cause and that there is plenty of money to spend. His voice wavering with emotion at times, he said: "I won't walk away. Someone has got to sit here and make sure Everton get out of a difficult situation. We can't be left rudderless. There are people outside screaming 'Johnson out' as I speak, but someone has got to do the job. We are always talking about money. Nobody seems to ask any other chairman if there is money to spend, but once Howard identifies a player he wants, we will do our best to buy him. There is money, but we have got to buy the right type of player. Of course we want world-class players; we tried to buy them in the summer when we went for Ince, Ferdinand and Ravanelli, but it's not that easy."

There is much work to be done if the supporters are to be appeased. Johnson and Kendall spoke of the difficulty of attracting "big-name" players, because — in the words of the manager — "what has happened at this club in recent years has made it difficult to attract the right type of players."

Tottenham have no such difficulty, yet they too have all the distress signs of a side that fears relegation. Indeed, Everton were the better side for much of the first half, hitting the crossbar through Barry and having a Ferguson header cleared off the line.

But, as the game progressed, Spurs rediscovered a confidence that was not so much low as non-existent when the match started. It was as if a light was turned on just after the interval. David Ginola was the catalyst.

He started the move on 72 minutes that saw Fox cleverly flick a Sinton cross into the path of the loitering Ramon Vega, for the Swiss to head firmly past Southall from close range. Four minutes later and the match was over as Ginola ran almost from halfway, leaving Ward in his wake, before crashing a shot into the roof of the net.

EVERTON (3-5-2): N. Southall — M. Ward, C. Short (sub: D. Caldwell, 74min), S. Ellis, C. Hill, T. Friele (sub: A. Kanchelski, 71), G. Williamson, G. Farnley (sub: J. Oser, 65), G. Speed — N. Barry, D. Ferguson.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): Walker — S. Carr, R. Vago, S. Campbell (sub: J. Spinks, 46), C. Wilson — R. Fox, A. Nielsen (sub: D. Anderson, 80), C. Caldwell, A. Sedgwick — L. Ferdinand (sub: S. Nielsen, 78), D. Ginola.

Referee: P. Jones

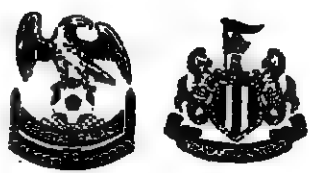
## Coppell left to chase first home win

BACK to earth with a bump for Crystal Palace. After their victory at Tottenham Hotspur last Monday, this was yet another failure to win their first FA Carling Premiership match at Selhurst Park. All they can do, their manager, Steve Coppell, said despairingly, is "try, try and try".

An early injury to the Palace striker, Bruce Dyer, had something to do with this defeat. The performance of Newcastle's Georgia Ketsbaia, which Coppell generously described as "superb", had more to do with it still. Ketsbaia scored Newcastle's first goal at a delicate psychological moment, just before half-time, and set up the second for Tomasson.

"Mobility, good vision, doesn't give the ball away, good spring," Coppell said. Dynamic to a degree, Ketsbaia was in almost perpetual motion, ever eager to beat his man, never giving up, spreading the ball with skill.

Dyer was hurt when Pistone, the Newcastle left back, crashed into him near the corner flag in a seemingly illegal challenge that led to Pistone being booted by the home supporters for the rest of the game. No foul was given, let alone a yellow card.



CRYSTAL PALACE 1  
NEWCASTLE UNITED 2

By Brian Glanville

The return on the right wing of Gillespie, suspended in Newcastle's mid-week game in Barcelona, gave better balance to the team, though there is still no sign of a return of Tino Asprilla. Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, said that his stomach operation had been wholly successful, but a leg muscle was still painful.

Dalglish, needless to say, was very happy; he even smiled. He said of his players: "They really put themselves in there and showed the resolve to get the result. I think they deserved what they got. They passed and moved it very well at times. We couldn't have asked for more."

Palace, who live on their opponents' energies, had other injuries to contend with. Michele Padovano, their expensive new Italian forward, who hurt a thigh at Tottenham, retired this time with an ankle injury, while Coppell admitted that Andy Roberts, who had a painkilling injection beforehand, should not have played at all.

He had to go off, too, though the arrival of the Israeli international, Itzhak Zohar, who has been burning to play, gave Palace fresh alternatives. Coppell calls him the best passer in the club, adding somewhat significantly: "He has to ally this with the basic fundamentals of English football."

Zohar it was who engineered the consolatory Palace goal, midway through the second half. Moving right left, then right, he used his stronger right foot to lay the ball off to Neil Shipperley, the striker, whose thundering low shot found the left-hand corner. However, it was not enough.

CRYSTAL PALACE (3-4-3): A. Lingham, P. Weir, H. Henderson — M. Edwards, A. Roberts (sub: I. Zohar, 47min), S. Rodgers, D. Gooden — S. Dyer (sub: J. Smith, 18), M. Padovano (sub: N. Emmison, 54), N. Shipperley.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S. Hiskop — S. Watson, D. Percock, S. Pearce, A. Palmer — K. Gillespie, J. D. Tomasson, D. Bailey, D. Hamilton — J. Barnes (sub: R. Lee, 64), T. Asprilla.

Referee: M. Riley

## Hartson reaps rewards for tenacity

LAST season, he was regarded as too expensive. Now he is a snip. Such is the whirligig of modern football for John Hartson, the leading scorer in the FA Carling Premiership. His two goals against Aston Villa were achieved through the sheer persistence and exemplary opportunism that will never again be underestimated by any manager whom he plays for or against.

Indeed, the hyperbole poured forth from Harry Redknapp, the West Ham United manager. "John is awesome, frightening, good in the air, good feet, a smashing lad, does not realise how good he is ...," he said before his voice tailed away.

Hartson has scored 16 goals in all competitions this season and is clearly worth considerably more than the £3.3 million he cost from Arsenal. As well as the attributes mentioned by Redknapp, he can ride tackles and has the requisite determination to be a top-class forward. He is unconcerned by whom he is partnered.

On Saturday, when Kitson was deemed to be not fully fit, Samassi Abou, from the Ivory Coast, made his second full league appearance alongside him. Still the chances kept coming, mostly set up by



WEST HAM UNITED 2  
ASTON VILLA 1

By Ivo Tenmaat

Berkovic. "We create so many opportunities at this club," Hartson said. "We are scoring in virtually every match."

The aggression that Hartson regards as an essential component of the modern-day striker led to a booking and, had a wild sliding tackle not been telegraphed and avoided by his opponent, he might have been sent off, yet his surge into the penalty area for his first goal was accomplished through sheer strength of character. His second, a shot from 20 yards, took a slight deflection.

If only Collymore had half the gumption that Hartson possesses. It is said that when a player leaves Liverpool, his game

## Failings of Holdsworth obscured by star quality



BOLTON WANDERERS 1  
WIMBLEDON 0

By Mark Hodgkinson

ARMS around one another, all smiles and winks, the double act of Holdsworth and Blake accepted the plaudits without a trace of coyness as they left the pitch at the Reebok Stadium.

Star quality is hard to define, but it embraces a sort of audacity and Dean Holdsworth has enough to stock a market stall or two. The pair bundled their way through the match, and while Noel Blake was at least a bulky nuisance, Holdsworth was purely comic value. His control was appalling, his movements limited and, on a rare occasion when he attempted a tackle, he almost vaulted clear over Ceri Hughes.

Both sides played a 4-4-2 formation and it produced a repetitive, formulaic game chiselled out on a narrow track with a dearth of wing play. Inspiration was at a premium, though players like Blackwell and Perry, for Wimbledon, and Todd and Sellars, for Bolton, excelled in the stalesness of the stalemate.

In true showbiz style, Holdsworth waited until the final curtain before sprinkling gold dust on to the tedium. His brain was two thoughts ahead of the rest when he spotted Sellars on a run into the penalty area. He backheeled it into his path and, when the shot was parried by Sullivan, both Holdsworth and Blake, the sense of glory in their nostrils, charged at the ball. Blake scored, but Holdsworth celebrated profusely, slumped to his knees, punching the air and singing to the fans.

At the final whistle, Holdsworth continued his effusive gestures, skipping among his team-mates, stopping only to adjust his hair and wipe any excess gel on to his shirt.

Anyone who had witnessed the celebration but missed the match would surmise that this was a player who had regularly dribbled past four opponents, tackled like a demon, played expansive crossfield passes and still had the energy to serve the pies at half-time. No, it was a two-yard backheel, but a backheel that, of 22 players on the field, only Holdsworth had the quickness of thought to devise and deliver. A star indeed.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K. Bennett — G. Borgeau, A. Todd, M. Finn, M. Whitham — J. Pollard, P. Frimand, A. Thompson (sub: A. Gurnea, 75min), S. Sellars — D. Holdsworth, N. Blake.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N. Sullivan — K. Cunningham, C. Perry, D. Blackwell, S. Threlmer — N. Achy, V. Jones, M. Hughes, G. Hughes — C. Carr, M. Gayle.

Referee: J. Winter

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FOOTBALL: TROPHY HUNT JUST BEGINNING FOR NEW COACH AFTER COCA-COLA CUP SUCCESS

# Jansen brings honour back to Celtic

Celtic 3  
Dundee United 0

By Kevin McCarron

WIM JANSEN has brought Celtic more than just the first trophy of his term in office. With this serene victory at Ibrox yesterday, the head coach restored to the club the kind of ascendancy that had been within the recall only of supporters who are making their reluctant way into middle age. Jansen, appointed in the summer, also confounded the prognostications.

Dundee United, who had already knocked Rangers out of the tournament, were supposed to be redoubtable and resolute, yet, by the middle of the first half, they were two goals behind and in abject condition. It had not been supposed that Celtic could be so assertive given that their only previous honour of this decade, the 1995 Tennent's Scottish Cup, had been grasped through a shoddy 1-0 win over Airdrie.

Yesterday, Jansen's side looked like men whose memory banks had been wiped clean of any recollection of the club's previous indignities. No doubts were present in the mind of Henrik Larsson, the forward, whose alert energy owed United's three centre backs. Celtic had authority in all areas, with Morten Wieghorst, the man of the match, striding imperiously through the midfield as space opened up after the interval.

Defenders rarely deal in elegance, but Rieper, the Celtic centre half, not only scored the opening goal but also provided a degree of protection that left United to seek goals with little more than drives thrashed from outside the penalty area.

Yet, as much as the polish of individuals, it was tactical acumen that established Celtic's command of the occasion. Just as they had in a 4-0 trouncing of United in the Bell's Scottish League premier division last weekend, Celtic used only Larsson in the middle of the attack, flanking him with two wingers, Thom and Blinker. The days of reflection before the Coca-Cola Cup final had not brought United any nearer a solution to that strategy.

With the three centre halves attempting to deal with Larsson, it was never clear who would provide cover on the touchlines. For a while, Perry moved out to act as an uneasy left back, but United lacked confidence in their methods. Disarray is also accentuated in a side that has lost two swift goals. The first of them, predictably, came after a surge on the wing. Thom, in the twentieth minute, stroked a perfectly weighted pass down the right to let Wieghorst advance and deliver a careful cross that



Rieper celebrates scoring the opening goal of the Coca-Cola Cup final with Larsson, left, and his Celtic team-mates at Ibrox yesterday

Rieper, who had remained upfield after a set-piece, headed home off the inside of the far post.

Celtic will preen themselves over the display they produced, but the ghostly nature of United's performance also shaped the character of the match. After 23 minutes, Perry, attempting to find Malpas, drafted the ball to Larsson. The Swede might have passed or even embarked on a run, but instead preferred to let fly and it was typical of Celtic's day that fortune should validate the decision. His drive deflected off Malpas and soared over Dijkstra, the goalkeeper, before dipping into the net.

Tommy McLean, the United manager, recognised that his side had cooperated in bringing their own hopes to a complete wasteland. "In the first 25 minutes, we didn't string two or three passes together," he said, "and it was effectively over."

Mortified by embarrassment, United belatedly began to press forward, but they

recovered only a trace of self-respect and never threatened to retrieve their hopes of victory. A simple save made by Gould, the Celtic goalkeeper, in the 78th minute was his first of the match. Thumping free kicks by Olofsson, which flew wide, supplied only faint encouragement for United.

It was always Celtic who drafted the incisive moves and the indignity for McLean's side could easily have assumed greater proportions.

Blinker, after 35 minutes, failed almost entirely to make contact after Wieghorst, with another break on the right, had laid a cross into his path. In the second half, Thom was clear twice and overran the ball on each occasion.

Celtic's precision, however, was to puncture United for a third time. After 60 minutes, Larsson held up play on the right and then picked out Blinker. He moved away from Zetterlund and then bustled

beyond Perry before lifting the ball over from the left for Burley to barge in another header. For the Celtic supporters, the half-hour that followed was nothing more than a delay ahead of their inevitable celebrations.

Six of the side are in their first season with the club, but they already know what is expected of them. Victory in the Coca-Cola Cup will strengthen the insistence that they now challenge even more

strongly in the League. "It's very nice," Larsson said as he studied his medal yesterday evening. But the Celtic striker spoke with the restraint of a man who knows that there is much yet to be achieved.

Celtic (3-4-3): J. Gould — M. Rieper, A. Stubbs, I. Boyd — J. McNamee (sub: E. Aronson, 60), C. Bailey, M. Wieghorst, S. Mahe — A. Thom (sub: P. Lambert, 88), R. Larsson, R. Barker (sub: P. Lambert, 88). Dundee United (3-5-2): S. Dijkstra — S. Presley, M. Malpas, M. Perry — M. Skoldmark (sub: G. McWhirter, 56), C. Zetterlund, D. Brown, M. Pedersen — R. Winters, K. Olofsson. Referee: J. McCuskey.

## Rangers fail to make good impression

RANGERS moved to within one point of Heart of Midlothian at the top of the Bell's Scottish League premier division, but that was the only cause for satisfaction after their laboured 2-2 victory over St Johnstone at Ibrox on Saturday.

The reigning champions looked potent enough in attack, but even the return of Richard Gough has not hidden defensive shortcomings and Andy Goram, the goalkeeper, needed to be at his best to deny St Johnstone a point.

Callum Davidson, the St Johnstone

defender, who was playing his first game for two months after recovering from a hernia problem, was the only accomplished defender on view and earned lavish praise from Paul Sturrock, his manager. "Callum was a revelation. I am so pleased for him because he was magnificent and will go a long way in the game," Sturrock said.

Pat Nevin, the former Scotland midfielder player, scored two goals and provided a shining example for his Kilmarnock team-mates in the 2-1 victory

over Dunfermline at Rugby Park. Nevin scored two fine goals before half-time and did his best to ensure that the lead was preserved when Dunfermline pulled a goal back and then were inspired after Dave Barnett was dismissed.

"It is the old thing of playing against ten men," Nevin said. "I was trying to tell the others to slow the game down and make them work, but we panicked and could not string passes together. All credit to Dunfermline though — they looked exhausted at the end."

## Hayles has winning answer for faithful young fan

Bristol Rovers 2  
Millwall 1

By Nick Szczepanik

A YOUNG supporter, who has followed Bristol Rovers for all of 14 years, was interviewed over the public address system a quarter of an hour before Saturday's kick-off. His forecast? A 3-0 win for his favourites.

Such innocent, youthful optimism — bound, one felt, to be cruelly dashed. Millwall had won five away games out of eight, while Rovers had already lost as many at home — and yet, the precise details of the scoreline apart, he turned out to know a thing or two.

Ian Holloway, the Rovers player-manager, is obviously a kindred spirit who had also taken no notice of Millwall's record on the road. "If you look at it like that, you drive yourself mad," he said. "I feel confident that if my boys are on top of their game, we're as good as anybody in this league. I thought Barry Hayles could get at their two centre halves."

Hayles, the forward signed in the summer from Stevenage Borough, had an unhappy first half, often caught offside but his team reached half-time in front thanks to an early near-post Beadle header from a Penrice cross.

Pressure at the start of the second half brought Millwall a deserved equaliser, when Shaw glanced a cross from Doyle past Collen, but the visitors seemed to lose their composure as a game that had contained occasional attempts at Sumo wrestling, a bit of rugby-style play and very little constructive football, degenerated even further. With 12 minutes to go, and Holloway on as substitute, an unconvincing clearance by Spink was returned upfield for Hayles to curl in the winner.

Millwall, who finished with ten players after Law's body-check of Hayfield, remain third in the Nationwide League second division, although they probably do not care for the city of Bristol, having already lost twice to Rovers' Ashton Gate rivals.

Holloway praised the reaction of his players to his decision to leave himself on the bench. "Today, they have taken responsibility for situations instead of leaving it to me, but at times you need a little savvy and I brought some old fella on," he said.

Bristol Rovers (4-4-2): A. Collier — J. Perry, A. Thorne, T. White, D. Pritchard — J. Law (sub: I. Holloway, 76min), M. Hayfield, P. Beadle, M. Lockwood — G. Penrice (sub: J. Abood, 72), B. Hayles. Millwall (4-4-2): N. Spink — K. Brown, A. McCleary (sub: S. Fitzgerald, 40), B. Law, P. Sturges (sub: K. Gurn, 81) — M. Black (sub: L. Nelli, 82), M. Doyle, R. Newman, D. Savage — P. Wilkinson, P. Shaw. Referee: M. Brandwood.

## Unbeaten run not enough for Fry's title ambitions

Notts County 2  
Peterborough United 2

By Richard Hobson

IT IS odd that a run of six matches unbeaten can constitute a blip in form. For Peterborough United, such analysis is valid. They have drawn all six, which, for promotion aspirants, is not good enough. Most worryingly for Barry Fry, the ebullient manager, his side are surrendering the lead with growing frequency.

They did so, again, on Saturday, before coming from behind. Victory would have taken them above Lincoln City to the top of the Nationwide League third division.

With four players absent, including both wingers, Fry met a Notts County side themselves challenging to return to the second division at the first opportunity, with three out-and-out strikers. A spirited, even contest ensued in torrential rain, brimful of chances with the occasional moment of genuine skill. "It had everything — good defending, bad defending, bad shooting, rubbish passing and four goals," Fry said.

Peterborough's first goal stemmed from a 35-yard free-kick by Jimmy Quinn. His low, skidding shot was parried by Ward to Carruthers and the follow-up attempt turned around for a corner. Gregory, unmarked at the far post, headed in.

Just five minutes had gone, but County, though nervous at the back, entered half-time in front. After 27 minutes, Finnan accepted a beautifully-weighted pass inside the full back by Derry with a low centre for Jones to convert. Eleven minutes later, the industrious Robson chipped Tyler from the edge of the penalty box.

Yet County were to regret three palpable chances Farrell contrived to squander. In the 57th minute, Strodder felled Gregory and Quinn struck the penalty firmly to equalise. Indeed, Quinn almost won the game in injury time with a low shot into the side-netting.

The afternoon was tarnished by a minority of supporters. Outside the ground, a menacing bunch from Peterborough rocked a fast food van close to topping point. Inside, two youths emerged from the home section to run across the pitch in the closing minutes.

Notts County (3-5-2): D. Ward — M. Rendle, G. Shodor, I. Richardson — I. Hendon, M. Robson (sub: C. Dudley, 67min), S. Derry, I. Barstow, S. Finnan (sub: S. Robinson, 67) — S. Farrell, G. Jones. Peterborough United (4-3-3): M. Tyle — D. Landon, M. Fenn, A. Edwards, A. Drury — G. McMillan, D. Payne, N. Lewis (sub: W. Bulmer, 60) — J. Quinn, M. Camber, N. Gregory. Referee: M. Brandwood.

## Beck emerges from Ravanelli's shadow

Middlesbrough 1  
West Bromwich Albion 0

By Pat Gibson

NOW we know why Mikkel Beck, the gifted young Danish striker, found it so hard to come to terms with English football during Middlesbrough's unavailing struggle against relegation last season. He was playing with Fabrizio Ravanelli on his back.

Beck said as much before this game and, in the 34th minute, he gave a practical demonstration of what he was talking about. When Paul Merson gave him the sort of chance that he used to blast into the stand, he took his time, waited for the goalkeeper to commit himself and then chipped the ball exquisitely over him for the goal that lifted Middlesbrough above West Bromwich Albion into second place in the Nationwide League first division.

Such a composed finish seemed quite beyond him a year ago and Alan Miller, the goalkeeper who left Middlesbrough for West Bromwich last year afterwards, thought that he knew the reason why. "The atmosphere is so much more relaxed now that they have

got the Ravanelli situation sorted out," he said, "and you could see it in Mikkel's play. He can now express himself without worrying about what other players might say."

Beck himself had been more explicit. "Ravanelli was very difficult to play with," he said. "I respected him as a goalkeeper, but as the man who had to play alongside him, I just could not accept the way he talked to people, even his friends. With him out of the way and Paul Merson in his place, I am a much better player."

The point was not lost on Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager. "Merson has definitely helped him along," he said. "He has a go at him sometimes but probably in a different way from what Ravanelli did."

Indeed, Robson had every reason to be grateful for the qualities of his strikers on a day that the rest of his side looked a long way short of Premiership standard. He was without Pearson, the captain, because of a virus and lost Maddison in the fifteenth minute with a bruised shin.

When Festa did not reappear for the second half because of a back problem, he sent on Summerbell to reinforce a midfield that was being overrun. Much has been made of West Bromwich's style of playing with only one striker, but it looked anything but negative as they broke forward to create chances for Soneke, Kilbane, Hamilton and Mardon, all of them squandered.

Robson, who began his playing career with West Bromwich, was suitably sympathetic. "There was no way that Albion deserved to lose," he said, "but that's the way it goes sometimes. If anyone had said to me a week ago that we would pick up seven points from our three games against Swindon, Nottingham Forest and West Brom, I would have settled for that."

Middlesbrough (4-4-2): M. Schwarzer — N. McClelland (sub: D. Whyte, 10min), S. Nielsen, G. Foster (sub: M. Summerbell, 48), C. Harrison — A. Connolly, Emerson, A. Townsend, C. Higgins — P. Merson, M. Beck. West Bromwich Albion (4-4-1-1): A. Miller — P. Thomas (sub: M. Evans, 80), D. Burgess, P. Mardon, D. Smith — S. Coddick, I. Harrison, P. Butler, K. Kilbane — R. Soneke (sub: L. Hughes, 68) — A. Hunt. Referee: K. Lynch.

## Megson's lead role in episode of neighbours

Stockport County 3  
Manchester City 1

By Bill Edgum

MUTUAL fondness between clubs, a rare concept in football, needs an absence of direct competition to flourish. Manchester City's 87-year divisional superiority over Stockport County has allowed the two clubs to keep a friendly neighbourhood watch over each other's fortunes.

Suddenly, however, their long-term good relations are facing a test. Stockport's promotion in May put them alongside City in the Nationwide League first division and results this season suggest the old hierarchy is unlikely to return in a hurry. The advent of December finds City unable to hold a candle to Stockport, whose victory on Saturday left them in seventh place while their opponents lie fourth from bottom.

"City's going down," sang the home fans, forgetting past friendships as some dismayed followers from Manchester left the ground after just half an hour with their side trailing 3-0.

Gary Megson, the Stockport manager and a City fan, was also unable to

hide his feelings, leaping high and punching the air at the final whistle. "It's a great day. It meant an awful lot to me," said Megson, who helped City to consecutive fifth places in the old first division in his last two seasons as a player there between 1990 and 1992.

Stockport's ninth win in 13 League games was assured after a first half in which Paul Cook won his battle of the left foot with Georgi Kinkladze. While Kinkladze was kept quiet, Cook dominated imperiously in midfield. His sweetly-struck, left-footed volley from 30 yards put Stockport ahead after six minutes and, almost immediately, Alan Armstrong added a second after Cook's corner was not properly cleared.

City's confidence, already fragile, was destroyed by a fourteenth goal of the season from Brett Angell after 52 minutes. In one moment of comedy, Symons and Wiekens, the City centre backs, collided as they attempted to head the ball that had come their way when Edgill, their team-mate, sliced his clearance.

Ged Brennan's 30-yard shot goal over Nixon, the stranded Stockport goalkeeper, shortly after half-time, sparked an impressive but unsuccessful City comeback. Frank Clark, their manager, suggested that his players had approached the game with a superiority complex born of history. "We played in the first half as if all we had to do to win was just turn up. We were abysmal. We had enough chances in the second half to have got something from the game, but that's more than we would have deserved."

Megson described Clark in the programme as "a gentleman who always finds time for other managers". Sadly, Clark may find himself with even more time on his hands if his players do not secure his future with better displays than this. Stockport County (3-5-2): E. Nixon — T. Downing, M. Pym, M. Mcintosh — S. Connolly, J. Gannon, I. Bennett, P. Cook (sub: C. Byrne, 70min), D. Seale — B. Angell, A. Armstrong. Manchester City (3-4-1-2): M. Margsson — K. Symons, G. Wiekens, A. Vaughan — R. Espin, E. McClelland (sub: M. Brown, 67), G. Brennan, K. Horlock — G. Kinkladze — P. Dikow, C. Russell. Referee: E. Wolstenholme.



Clark disappointed



Beck: exquisite winner

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THE CITY NEVER SLEEPS







Four weeks of intense pressure starts to take toll on Woodward and brave but battered players

# England stare up an All Black mountain

## Shortage of candidates for vacancy at No 10

By DAVID HANDS

THE crisis that England now face in terms of fly half selection is the most extreme example of Clive Woodward's constant theme of the damage that the leading clubs are doing to the national cause by introducing so many overseas players. With Mike Catt concussed and Alex King, of Wasps, not yet recovered from a knee injury, the national coach is in a corner.

He must send out an England A team against the New Zealanders at Leicester tomorrow and a senior XV against them at Twickenham on Saturday with only one experienced No 10 to hand — Paul Grayson. Catt spent a night in hospital after his head came in to contact with Henry Honiball's elbow in a tackle towards the end of the first half of Saturday's international and he faces the mandatory 21-day recovery period, which threatens his place in the Bath team for the Heineken Cup semi-final against Pau on December 20.

The entry of Grayson in his place forced England to recast their tactical plans, as well as revising their A XV for Leicester, where the Northampton man — who has played only three games at fly half for his club this season — was due to play. Grayson must now be held back for next Saturday's international, his place going to Richard Butler, who has spent so much time among the Bath replacements that he is seeking a transfer.

But Woodward looks in vain elsewhere in the first division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership: Bristol (Paul Burke), Harlequins (Thierry Lacroix), Leicester (Joel Stranksy), Saracens (Michael Lynagh), Richmond (Earl Va'a, Adrian Davies) and Sale (Simon Mannix) play ineligible fly halves, as do London Irish. Mark Mapletoft, of Gloucester, capped in Argentina last summer, is injured, which leaves Rob Andrew, at Newcastle, far more worthy of a recall to arms than he ever was when Jack Rowell awarded him the cheapest of caps as a replacement against Wales last March.

Though there is a crop of youngsters on the way through, not one has any worthwhile experience in speak of Jonathan Wilkinson was due to play for England Under-21 against the New Zealand Youth XV at Newbury on Friday, but he, too, is injured and, like James Lofthouse, at Sale, is fresh from school. James Brown, an England Colt last season, shares the position at Coventry with Jez Harris.



Venter, the South Africa flanker, storms through the challenges of Cockerill, left, and Catt during the England defeat at Twickenham. Photograph: Marc Aspland

England..... 11  
South Africa..... 29

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

DEFEAT is an insidious companion. England knew from the start that their autumn series of internationals would examine every last drop of their resources, but, at some stage, their fresh, young sides will have hoped for the glorious lift that victory brings. As the green and gold of South Africa battered at their line at Twickenham, however, the cumulative effect began to tell.

The raw edge of England's troops was exposed by the World Cup holders on Saturday; next weekend brings the return with New Zealand and even the greatest optimist could not imagine success being plucked from the men in black. England have come thus far on enthusiasm, bravery and organisation, but, with the loss of Mike Catt, their most creative midfield spark has been extinguished.

It was significant that, in the



## ENGLAND'S AUTUMN CHALLENGE

aftermath, Clive Woodward began to mention players who have not been available to him — Jeremy Guscott and Tony Underwood. Woodward, the England coach, suggested that South Africa had put their best 15 players out, whereas England were without two Lions among the backs — the injured Guscott and Underwood — Phil de Glanville, also injured, and Martin Johnson, due to suspension.

But what clearly hurt Woodward more was the inability of a XV to build a greater lead on a powerful first half-hour. At Old Trafford, England had at least found space behind the All Blacks; here, an exceptional ability of seeking space rather than the physical confrontation that characterised South Africa sides of old.

Mallett has called up, at 32, a player such as Dick Muir, whose deft touches sparked a possible three-try England defence and points, a yellow card for Danny Greweck and left. Rossouw was the vital man less than cohesive in the third South throughout the second half. Greweck was guilty of a punching, as was Gareth Aherne, who was sent off when a penalty in England's favour was reversed.

Individuals became distracted by inconsequential confrontations, a sure sign of a team that knows defeat is imminent: in direct contrast, South Africa, once they hit the front, stepped up the tempo of their game. There was an initial uncertainty, controlled by Adrian Garvey's try on the stroke of half-time and buried by two tries within four minutes that left the writing plainly on England's wall.

Nick Mallett has turned round South Africa's fortunes wonderfully well. This was their fourth international win in as many weekends, the culture of success to which Mallett referred and which England so desperately need to establish once the year has turned. The South Africa coach has turned his players into a team that gives found space behind the All Blacks; here, an exceptional ability of seeking space rather than the physical confrontation that characterised South Africa sides of old.

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the try that, with Percy Montgomery's touchline conversion, ensured that England had conceded more points in a home international than at any other time in their history. Mallett also determined the change of tactical direction at half-time; while England were pondering the implications of

Catt's absence, South Africa decided to carry more play through their forwards or in pursuit of Swanepoel's box kicking. The scrum half is a naturally left-sided player and his initial kicks were inaccurate, but they did have the effect of forcing decisions out of the England defence.

But England, whose lineup in Johnson's absence was poorly managed, cannot match the power generated by their southern-hemisphere opponents. There were exceptions: Neil Back was outstanding, Archer is developing rapidly and twice Will Greenwood sniffed a way

through. Collectively, though, they do not possess the pumping leg action and low, driving body positions that are second nature to South Africans and New Zealanders — and which earned Garvey his try.

England's early advantage in the Nike international showed that Catt had put to the back of his mind the blues of Old Trafford: two penalty goals from around 38 metres showed as much and his third kick, the conversion of Greenstock's try in the left-hand corner, hit an upright. Greenstock had taken swift advantage of South Africa's error, Rossouw choosing to run, rather slowly, a ball out of his own 22 before Otto's pass to Teichmann was flipped up by the England centre on his race to the line.

But the gap was closed by Garvey after Catt had marginally kept out Dalton and England's leap evaporated when Snyman, with a wall of white in front of him, broke past Leonard and had enough momentum to score through Perry's tackle. That try came from a missed England clearance: the next, too, came from ball kicked away by England, though Perry's effort deserved better from the chasers.

Instead, a wonderful period of controlled rugby lasting 1min 26sec, when forwards and backs were interchangeable, allowed Andrews to

# MATCH FACTS: HOW THE PLAY UNFOLDED

## LINEOUTS

|              | Award | E22 | EH | SAH | SA22 | Won | Run | Kick | Drive | Lost | Void |
|--------------|-------|-----|----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|-------|------|------|
| England      | 10    | —   | 3  | 5   | 2    | 8   | 1   | —    | 7     | 2    | 3    |
| South Africa | 14    | 3   | 6  | 5   | —    | 13  | 1   | —    | 12    | 1    | —    |

Lineouts: 7 Otto; 6 Archer; 5 Andrews; 2 Dallaglio; 1 Venter

Void: 2 throw not straight; 1 knock on.

## SCRUMS

|              | Award | E22 | EH | SAH | SA22 | Run | Kick | Drive | Void |
|--------------|-------|-----|----|-----|------|-----|------|-------|------|
| England      | 12    | 3   | 6  | 2   | 2    | 3   | 7    | 3     | —    |
| South Africa | 16    | 1   | 6  | 5   | 2    | 10  | 4    | —     | 2    |

Removes: England: 5 knock on; 4 held up; 2 ball to ground; 2 forward pass. South Africa: 7 knock on; 4 ball to ground; 1 throw not straight; 1 held up; 1 forward pass; 1 elected; 1 carried over line.

## PENALTIES

|              | Award | E22 | EH | SAH | SA22 | Run | Found touch | Miss touch | 3pts | Miss | Scrum |
|--------------|-------|-----|----|-----|------|-----|-------------|------------|------|------|-------|
| England      | 9     | 1   | 4  | 3   | 1    | —   | 7           | —          | —    | —    | —     |
| South Africa | 10    | 4   | 2  | 3   | 1    | 1   | 6           | —          | 1    | 1    | 1     |

Conceded: England: 3 foul play; 3 took out the man; 3 offside; 1 over the top; 1 in front of kicker; 1 scrum offence. South Africa: 2 offside; 2 hands on floor; 1 over the top; 1 obstruction; 1 foul play; 1 crossing; 1 took out the man without the ball. There was also one free kick to South Africa — scrum offence.

## KICKING RECORD

|              | Cats |      | Pats |      | Total |      | %   |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|-----|
|              | Atts | Succ | Atts | Succ | Atts  | Succ |     |
| M Catt       | 1    | 0    | 2    | 2    | 3     | 2    | 57  |
| H Honiball   | 3    | 2    | 2    | 1    | 5     | 3    | 60  |
| P Montgomery | 1    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 1     | 1    | 100 |

## Coach keeps driving for change

Michael Calvin finds  
Clive Woodward ready to  
lose some friends in  
England's best interest

Clive Woodward spoke with a careworn candour that challenged English rugby to recognise — and respond to — the need for another revolution. He had nothing left to lose after South Africa had reaffirmed the obvious on an appropriately dank afternoon.

His astringent honesty, tinged by exasperation, marked him as a probable victim of the piecemeal embrace of professionalism. As England coach, he lives on the fault line between the panic-stricken accountants of leading clubs and the petty politicians of the Rugby Football Union (RFU).

"It's become a nightmare situation," he admitted. "There is just no structure in place. There is a huge step between first division and international rugby and we need to create a final tier, a structure above the clubs. That's not me whingeing, it's just the facts of life."

"Look around and say who is right and who is wrong. It is no coincidence that three countries — Australia, South Africa and New Zealand — have the same system. They are light years ahead of us. When I speak to them, they tell me I am almost in an impossible situation."

"I'm not talking to dummies. These are guys like John Hart [the All Blacks coach], who've been there and done it, and they just shake their heads. I am passionate about getting this right and something radical has to happen if we are serious about what we are doing."

His blueprint involves extending the first division to 16 clubs and forming four regional sides, restricted to players qualified for England, to compete in the Heineken Cup. It is flawed by an essential contradiction, since it assumes that the clubs and the RFU are capable of aligning their conflicting interests.

The clubs, facing financial meltdown



Woodward finds plenty to think about during the England defeat

due to their knee-jerk response to professionalism, are by nature expedient institutions. Already beset by cashflow problems, because of the four successive England internationals, they resent outside interference.

The RFU, led by Fran Cotton and Cliff Brittle, the chairman of its management board, has an annual income of £300 million to protect. It can only assist Woodward by signing leading players to central contracts, which would threaten the independence that is essential to the long-term stability of the clubs.

By making his pitch after another illustration of the inherent superiority of Southern Hemisphere rugby, Woodward was getting his retaliation in first. The Barbarians' baton have been sold on New England, just as effectively as the electorate were convinced of the concept of New Labour.

But, as Downing Street will confirm, honeymoons do not last forever.

"I don't expect them to be patient," Woodward said when someone sought refuge in the fact that the support of the Twickenham crowd extended beyond a desultory chorus of *Swing Low Sweet Chariot*. "Professional sport is all about winning and we are not winning. I am not making any excuses. I knew exactly what I was walking into when I took the job."

Perhaps — but one suspects that the scale of the problem has come as a culture shock. Like Nick Mallett, the England-born coach who inherited a dispirited Springbok team in the aftermath of the last Lions tour, his priority is to establish what Mallett termed "a winning culture."

It takes, by common consent, at least ten games to become attuned to the speed and stress of the international

game. Woodward's gamble in the enforced development of an inexperienced team will fail if confidence drains away. The signs are ominous.

His players were, to use his buzzword, "a bit cranky" after South Africa's unanswered onslaught. The All Blacks are unlikely to be sympathetic to their plight. Indeed, their mutterings about the consequences of disrespect at Old Trafford suggest that they are gearing themselves to inflict a devastating psychological blow at Twickenham on Saturday.

The loss of Mike Catt is a symbol of stretched resources. "We're struggling," Woodward admitted. "Say Paul Grayson gets injured. Who comes in

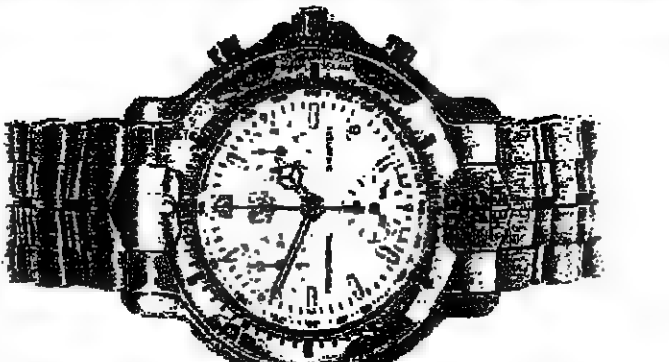
'Something radical has to happen if we are serious about what we are doing'

them? You can have my phone and fax numbers if you're interested." He compiled a list of the top ten English fly halves when he took the job, but admits that "after four or five, you come to guys you've never heard of."

He has already been obliged to defy old loyalties, advising Richard Butler, the fourth choice, to seek a transfer from Bath, Woodward's former club, because he is unable to dislodge Catt from the league team. Jonathan Wilkinson, the standard-bearer for the next generation, was signed by Newcastle on his return from the England Schoolboys tour of Australia, but finds his chances restricted by Rob Andrew.

"You don't need to be a rocket scientist to work out that there is a huge problem," Woodward said. "I am just stating the obvious. It is up to the clubs if they want to sign 15 All Blacks. I need four sides, full of Englishmen, all playing at the highest level in Europe. I'm not confident that is going to happen, but I'm determined to keep saying that it needs to happen." He will, one fears, be wasting his breath.

# Not even Jason Leonard is as reliable over eighty minutes.



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# Long goodbye finds Barker short of substance

Those lift doors at Newbury racetrack, one suspects, will stay in Sue Barker's memory for some time. We'd seen Sir Peter O'Sullivan getting into the lift — indeed, the short walk from commentary box to lift, amid much applause and raising of hats, had provided one of the few genuinely moving moments of the afternoon — but he seemed reluctant to come out. The camera gazed at the lift doors unblinkingly. Somebody told Sue Barker to lift.

"We are now, er, waiting at the bottom of the, er, lift-shaft going up to the commentary box where Peter O'Sullivan is making his way down, for the final time, from the, er, commentary box." The doors

stayed stubbornly shut. Bit more Sue please.

Did O'Sullivan have a finger on the "doors close" button? Was there a way out that Barker didn't know about? Had he fled because he knew she'd be banging on again about what a "sad and emotional" day it must be? The camera zoomed in for a closer look at these fine, brushed metal doors. "Surely it's been a very emotional afternoon for him," she said, returning to the theme with which she had begun 90 minutes earlier, when *Grandstand's* coverage of the Hennessy Gold Cup meeting got under way, "but hopefully it won't be too emotional that he won't give us a word or two to explain

how he's feeling at the moment." No one could say she wasn't persistent.

Eventually, however, the gods smiled upon her, the doors opened and there was O'Sullivan, his trademark tinted glasses shielding his eyes from her leopard-spot hat. Nothing, though, could shield him from her questions. "Peter, what was it like up there when you had to turn and walk away?"

He gave her the same answer that he had given when she asked the same question at Longchamps and, no doubt, would have given Des Lynam at Aintree had the Grand National gone according to plan. "It was like any other day," began the man for whom the phrase "despises a



MATTHEW BOND  
TV ACTION REPLAY

fuss" might have been invented. Seeing as this really was his last day, though, he let a little emotion slip. "People in the boxes very kindly cheered, which was very nice."

After the longest farewell season in broadcasting history, O'Sullivan's final afternoon was a magnificently British occasion. There was the reluctant hero himself. "I'm absolutely staggered with the attention that this

very ordinary commentator has attracted." Then there was Richard Pitman, who, in a single hand-over, managed to be infinitely more moving than Barker. "Peter may say it's a happy day for him, but for the rest of us here it's sad, as we hand over to Peter O'Sullivan for the last time."

on-the-boof interview as she shepherded "the voice of racing" to the winner's enclosure — and things got no better there. Julian Wilson talked over some kind words from the course announcer, an elderly sponsor nearly fell off the presentation platform and, when somebody stuck a microphone in O'Sullivan's hand, he didn't make a speech, but generously thanked the race sponsors.

Aware, perhaps, that these final moments had not gone quite according to plan, *Grandstand* returned to Newbury during half-time in the rugby for a replay of the Fulke Walwyn Chase, in which O'Sullivan's horse, Sounds of Fyne, was running. It started at 12-1, which, as Steve

Rider, with a knowing smile, said "didn't sound too good". It was good enough, though, as Jim McGrath, the new voice of BBC racing, called home a "famous victory for Sir Peter O'Sullivan". At last, a happy ending.

Our final sight of the great man was of him being jostlingly accused of chicanery by Frankie Dettori. The victory, he thought, was wonderful. "But something had to be on — the 'oss hadn't run for 700 days."

Earlier, before the sentimental piano music and the warm tributes from a *Who's Who* of racing began, O'Sullivan confessed that, as ever, his only concern was calling the race right. He needn't have worried. Apart from having Carl Llewellyn

on the wrong horse as he ran through the meadow, he called it perfectly.

Whether the occasional catch in his throat was excitement or emotion, we shall probably never know, but as the horses turned into the home straight, that unmistakable voice began its familiar rise up the octave. Start too high and you're dead. Julian Wilson warned us earlier, but with 50 years of practice O'Sullivan knew exactly where he was going.

"Racing down to the final fence now and as they do so it's Sunny Bay that has forged his way into the lead... Sunny Bay runs away with the 1997 Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup." Saturday afternoons just won't sound the same.

"The press criticism of players, even Wasim Akram, is enough to make the most worldly person blanch"

## Peaks and troughs of Pakistan cricket

If they arrange a government permit, and — no little matter, this — take an armed guard for company, enterprising tourists can hire a car in Peshawar and travel up the Khyber Pass to within five miles of the Afghan border. There, the journey ends ("No foreigners beyond this point") but it is worth taking, to enjoy the spectacular views and remember the pivotal role the Pass has played down the centuries. On the commanding heights, overlooking the road as it winds into the valley, the pale-faced foreigners will be nuzzled by mountain goats and pestered by young urchins who offer bundles of Afghan notes in return for rupees. On a good day, he might also buy a Kalashnikov, or a few pounds of hashish. Nobody bothers. This is tribal territory, where 5,000 years of history have been written in blood.

Take on trust the splendour of the views: it hardly requires a leap of the imagination. Please also believe that the abiding image of this reporter's visit was of a brahmin or ten years old, avoiding stones thrown by the guard for persistent begging. Off he scooted down the shale bank to join his fellows in the bushes below and, with a waft of his left hand, he played an imaginary straight drive!

You can't avoid cricket in this land. All the way along the road leading to the Pass, wherever there was a spare plot of land, people improvised games. Little tots used rudimentary bats and, for wickets, tyres swung from ropes. Older boys played with rubber balls as their elders acted as fielders. There's no getting away from it. Cricket is everywhere and, to these people, means everything.

At times, it means too much. The crowd at the recent Peshawar Test hurled stones at their own players, even as they were giving West Indies a good hiding. Two years ago, a man from Lahore was set upon by spectators there for no better reason than he resembled Wasim Akram, the Pakistan captain, who is not popular in those lawless parts.

During a World Cup match in Peshawar last year, journalists and photographers were forced to protect their equipment when the crowd burst through the barriers after the police had bunked off. There are times when the officers appear to be at the ground for their own delight, so relaxed is their attitude to matters of public safety.

Two weeks ago, they were strangely absent when the spectators became restless, stirring themselves only when the West Indies players complained about the barrage of stones and fruit from the terraces. On the first day of the Test, reporters turned round with a start to see his ribs himself, the chief of police, sitting happily in the press box, and to hear him

MICHAEL HENDERSON



declare approvingly, upon the fall of a West Indian wicket: "Clean bowled."

Most English cricket-lovers are not familiar with the game as it exists here, and many may not be curious to find out, but this is a good time to reflect on the yawning chasm between the countries. Next week, December 5 to be precise, it will be the tenth anniversary of the fateful "incident in Peshawar".

That was the day that Mike Gatting's argument with the umpire, Shakoora Rana, led to a diplomatic war in which gunfire can still be heard. Gatting was the first casualty, indirectly, because he lost the England captaincy seven months later. Pakistan have visited England twice since then, winning both series. England have yet to return to Pakistan.

They are due to come here in 2000, by which time the wounds, inflicted by both parties, may have healed. There is no obvious animosity to England or to



1987: Gatting and Shakoora Rana

Englishmen and a touring party will be well looked after, in pukka hotels, even if — as the West Indies found out last week — there are places that should be scrubbed from any proposed itinerary.

For the outsider, it is a bewildering place. Pakistan cricket is a dish of such various, conflicting ingredients and spices that you don't know whether you going to choke on a pepper or swallow a chicken. There is no place quite like it and nobody can remain indifferent to the teeming life as it swirls all around.

Nowhere, surely, is there a better place for the native to be a Test cricketer — so long as he is successful. Nowhere is there a more unforgiving place to fail. The intense rivalries of geography and politics disfigure Pakistan cricket as brightly as the players, in their more elevated moments, adorn it. The polarities of fame and infamy, glory and shame, are wider apart here than anywhere else.

The team's performance shadows this mood. Pakistan, who can draw from a deeper well of talent than anyone except Australia, lost a home series against South Africa when they were bowled out for 52, losing by 53 runs. At Peshawar, that failure was a mirage as they vanquished West Indies. Capable one day of brilliance, the next of incompetence, they chart their course by an irregular star.

Far from uniting the nation, the victory has become a battleground for conflicting views about the team and its composition. Arshad Khan, a moderate off spinner, played at Peshawar to appease the locals and was promptly dropped. Tales abound of a "hit list" of senior players who are on the brink of demotion.

The chicanery of Pakistan cricket was revealed on the opening day of the first Test, when a selector informed Ijaz Ahmed, strictly off the record, that he was playing his last Test match. What a way to send the warrior into battle! Ijaz made 65 the next day, but the poor chap must wonder what on earth is going on.

Nobody is immune from public speculation and vilification. The press criticism of players, up to and including Wasim, one of the greatest cricketers in the history of the game, is enough to make the most worldly person blanch. Earlier this week, one indignant scribe wrote that the occasional hanging might persuade players and others tempted by bribes to think twice in future. *Encouragez les autres, indeed!*

Above all, there is the hospitality and natural dignity of people who are proud, resilient and eager for visitors to enjoy their country in all its complexity and battlement. And they love their cricket, however roughly it treats them.



Cricket at the Khyber Pass: this may be bandit country but the young boys are still mad about cricket

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## SPORTS LETTERS

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### Reactions to the haka

From Mr Sam Simmonds

Sir, It was disappointing to read Simon Barnes expressing approval of Richard Cockerill's behaviour during the All Blacks' haka at Old Trafford. The All Blacks have been performing this ceremonial dance before international matches for as long as anyone can remember and, with very few exceptions, it is greeted with enthusiasm by the crowd and tolerance by the opposition.

If Simon Barnes thinks the enactment of this traditional war dance can be likened to spitting in people's punts or making "derivative sexual insults", then he obviously frequents a different pub to me. The haka is an integral part of the excitement and ceremony that the touring All Blacks bring with them and it would be a sad day for British rugby if they felt unable to perform it at our grounds.

If players such as Cockerill genuinely find the haka to be intimidating, I suggest they turn their back on it and concentrate on their own preparations. To stare down your opposing number while he does something he believes in is aggressive in the extreme and much more likely to

invoke the spirit of war than dancing and making faces.

Yours faithfully,  
SAM SIMMONDS,  
14 Belhus Drive,  
Trigg, Perth, WA.  
Sam-Simmonds@allsouthsions.com.au

From Mr Robin England

Sir, In his article (November 26), Simon Barnes is absolutely right to reject the All Blacks' claims that the haka is just a non-intimidatory expression of their culture, entitled to compliant respect. Kevin Bowring's proposal to establish a 20-metre buffer zone at the Wembley match on Saturday was sensible.

England, at least, should develop a disciplined and positive response, a counter-haka with an English name. A calm and dignified approach could be best. For instance, the team should line up on the buffer line spread evenly across the pitch (showing command of space). Pending agreement on the buffer, seven feet short of halfway would do. This would cut out bawling and recapture the legendary defiance of King Harold to Harald Hardrada of Norway (a land akin to South Island, New Zealand) when he demanded the English Crown. The king offered Harald seven feet of English soil for a burial plot "because he is a tall man".

### Avoiding dilution of the Cola-Cola Cup

From Mr Steve Corbett

Sir, It is disappointing to see some FA Carling Premiership clubs putting out weaker teams in this year's Coca-Cola Cup, but at the same time understandable, given the loss of the UEFA Cup place, that some clubs do not rate the competition as a priority.

Assuming that the Football League is successful in regaining the European place taken away through no fault of its own, perhaps one way to ensure that clubs field their strongest sides would be to help our clubs competing in the European club competitions New Zealand touring team has ever played, namely the 1973 classic against the Barbarians at the Arms Park in Cardiff.

On that never-to-be-forgotten occasion, the All Blacks lined up across the halfway line, behind the great Sid Going, who led the pre-match challenge, actually facing the crowd. The Barbarians kept a respectful distance, as did the New Zealanders, and the crowd duly responded with a mighty cheer after the customary leap at the end of the haka. At no time was there ever any threat of confrontation or insulting behaviour.

In recent years, however, the manner in which the All Blacks have performed the haka has been infinitely more unsavoury: eyeballing and glowering at the opposition, getting ever closer and closer with what appears to be the clear purpose of intimidation.

Yours faithfully,  
STEVE CORBETT,  
1 Chelsea Court,  
54 Mulgrave Road, Sutton, Surrey.

From Mr Richard Ellis  
Sir, How well and humorously Simon Barnes put the haka into context in his article. Perhaps a few more players will now be encouraged to

"do a Campese" when the All Blacks begin their capering.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD ELLIS,  
65 Mill Lane,  
Fordham, Ely,  
Cambridgeshire.

From Mr Mike Cloughton  
Sir, The confrontational and allegedly "disrespectful" attitude adopted by certain England players during the All Blacks' haka at Old Trafford put me in mind of what was probably the greatest match a New Zealand touring team has ever played, namely the 1973 classic against the Barbarians at the Arms Park in Cardiff.

On that never-to-be-forgotten occasion, the All Blacks lined up across the halfway line, behind the great Sid Going, who led the pre-match challenge, actually facing the crowd. The Barbarians kept a respectful distance, as did the New Zealanders, and the crowd duly responded with a mighty cheer after the customary leap at the end of the haka. At no time was there ever any threat of confrontation or insulting behaviour.

In recent years, however, the manner in which the All Blacks have performed the haka has been infinitely more unsavoury: eyeballing and glowering at the opposition, getting ever closer and closer with what appears to be the clear purpose of intimidation.

Yours faithfully,  
MIKE CLOUGHTON,  
28 Tinsley Road,  
London SW18.

From Mr Martin Riley  
Sir, Despite England's superb performance against the All Blacks at Old Trafford, the scenes after the match worry me. The fact of the matter is that we got beaten comprehensively by three tries to one. That does not merit a lap of honour. I know that the team wanted to thank the crowd, but that could have been done with a quick wave from the centre of the pitch — not a lap of honour with *Land of Hope and Glory* blasting from the loudspeakers. At that point, I'm afraid I just left the ground with embarrassment.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN RILEY,  
24 Regents Park Close,  
West Bridgford,  
Nottingham.

Norman Hewitt's exhibition was a classic example.

Yours faithfully,  
MIKE CLOUGHTON,  
Widened,  
29 Maidstone Road,  
Ashford, Kent.

From Mr John Bradley  
Sir, Perhaps the best response to the haka is a spot of Morris dancing.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN BRADLEY,  
28 Tinsley Road,  
London SW18.

### Lap of dishonour

From Mr Martin Riley  
Sir, Despite England's superb performance against the All Blacks at Old Trafford, the scenes after the match worry me. The fact of the matter is that we got beaten comprehensively by three tries to one. That does not merit a lap of honour. I know that the team wanted to thank the crowd, but that could have been done with a quick wave from the centre of the pitch — not a lap of honour with *Land of Hope and Glory* blasting from the loudspeakers. At that point, I'm afraid I just left the ground with embarrassment.

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Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN RILEY,  
24 Regents Park Close,  
West Bridgford,  
Nottingham.

### School and country rugby

From Mr Barrie Lloyd

Sir, Gerald Davies writing about the fine rugby tradition of Llandovery (Sport in Schools, November 24), and of the 40 players from Llandovery who have won senior international rugby honours for Wales, says that it is improbable that any school can have had so many of its former pupils play rugby for their country.

The record of Fettes exceeds even that of Llandovery. Fettes has produced, so far, 64 rugby internationals of whom 59 have played for Scotland (14 Scotland caps since the end of the Second World War), 4 for England and one for Ireland. The record is underpinned at the level of the Oxford and Cambridge University rugby match. 55 Fettesians have gained rugby Blues, 15 since 1945.

Although the otherwise successful co-educational policy of Fettes has diminished its rugby prowess in recent years, it continues to employ a highly skilled coaching staff and its rugby tradition remains alive.

Yours faithfully,  
BARRIE LLOYD,  
4 Beechdown,  
Guildford, Surrey.

### This week in THE TIMES



■ **Tomorrow**  
Will Glenn Hoddle's England football team be among the seeds for the 1998 World Cup finals in France? Oliver Holt states the case.

■ **Wednesday**  
Formula One motor racing unveils a new team. Who will run it?

■ **Friday**  
French connection: who have England and Scotland drawn in the World Cup opening stage?

■ **Saturday**  
Football Saturday: the Premiership match-by-match. Oliver Holt, Steve McManaman and Danny Baker.

هكمان الذملي



# Formation dancers take on the world in Munich

Britain's top formation dance sport team flies out to Germany next week to compete in the world formation dance sport championships in Munich.

The 16 athletes and two reserves in the team, trained by Carol Attack and her husband Nick at their large ballroom in Preston, will take on 24 Latin formation teams.

The championships come as acceptance of ballroom dancing as a legitimate sport is growing. Formation dancing, alongside the straightforward Latin and standard disciplines, has been granted Olympic recognition and could feature in the Olympic Games as early as 2004.

Marie Higgins, a registered nurse who has been in the Attack team for 15 years and will dance with Gary Woods in Munich, said: "Formation dancing is brilliant. It is all about teamwork. You have to be athletic and fit to do this sport, the men must have a good physique. It is like running the marathon in five minutes. The men must be able to lift the girls, the girls must be able to do the splits and the wiggles."

Routines have been specially prepared to take on the European challenge. The more staid English style has been dropped in favour of a fast continental routine based on the theme from *Evita* and choreographed with the help of the Latin dance champion Goran Nordin who, with his wife Nicola, took third place in the professional Latin in last month's Blackpool formation dance championships.

A samba, slow rumba, energetic cha-cha, jive and a

Recognition by the Olympic authorities gives dancing a boost, says Ruth Gledhill

**SPORT FOR ALL**



The Attack dancers in competition in Blackpool. Formation dance routines have been specially prepared to face the European competitors in the world championships

strong paso doble with another rumba and samba have been segued together, with solo work, "burn twizzles", where the man spins the woman on her bottom, a "scale", where the dancers move in an ascending or descending arc, and a "trade", where they exchange partners, spun in for effect.

The aim is to combine complex and challenging routines with unity, technique, athletic ability, style and glamour. "It is eight couples dancing as one," said Mrs Attack, whose fundraising ball in Blackpool last week helped to raise about £500. "It is being part of a team, part of a family."

The Attack team, aged from 16 to 30, have struggled with no sponsorship or outside help, to fund

the flight, hotel, costume and training expenses. All are either students or work full-time, but fit in at least ten hours of dance training a week, on top of stamina-building exercises.

On December 13 they will face dancers in the top teams who can devote themselves almost full-time to the sport. The immaculately turned out continental teams travel with trainers, manicurists, beauticians and sports therapists, sponsored by companies.

Competition for a place in the teams is so intense that some establishments, such as Germany's world-beating Bremerhaven and Aachen, can run two or even three teams simultaneously. Coaches have to pick dancers to choose from that they can pick dancers who look alike.

If chosen, the rewards are



high. Dancers can become television sports stars, and lucrative careers as professional coaches beckon. In Britain, the birthplace of formation dancing in the 1930s,

the sport has become a poor relation. From a postwar boom when more than 20 teams competed at the annual open British championships, there are now a handful of

teams on the competitive circuit. Some had virtually written the sport off until the news in September that dance sport had been granted full Olympic recognition by the Interna-

tional Olympic Committee. Mrs Attack, whose team won the open British championship earlier this year, says there are signs of a renewed interest from youngsters hungry for an Olympic gold.

One dancer is at university before joining the RAF. Another, Mrs Attack's son Wesley, 20, who will be dancing with Debbie Briggs, plays American football when he is not on the dance floor or studying at Leeds University.

"We did not do very well in the European championships," he said. "We were dancing a British style and that has become old-fashioned. Now we have changed it to a more European style. It is livelier, more athletic, with more show and enjoyment. There are lifts and a lot of spins. The hardest part is making sure that everyone is

doing the same thing at the same time."

Technically, there is no reason why Britain could not reign supreme in formation dancing. Ken Bateman, a coach who heads the Formation Teachers' Guild, and whose adult team won the open British championships three times in the 1960s, said: "The teams in Europe are better sponsored, and don't have to worry about money for travel or clothes. But we think the Olympic factor might make a difference."

There are about 30 junior teams going strong. If these youngsters can be given some incentive to continue dancing when they turn 16, the situation might improve."

Carol Attack: 01772 25416; Formation Teachers' Guild: 01753 520003

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

If they defend badly, you're still got to take advantage of it. Sandra Landy did so on this hand, from the match between Britain and Italy in the 1997 Generali European Championship. The British team won the European but lost to China in the quarter-finals of the Venice Cup (the women's world championship).

| Dealer North                       | Love all                           | IMPs |
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| ♠ KQ4<br>♥ 643<br>♦ J7<br>♣ AKQ97  | ♠ 102<br>♥ Q7<br>♦ A108843<br>♣ JS |      |
| ♠ A875<br>♥ K65<br>♦ K8<br>♣ 8842  | ♠ 102<br>♥ Q7<br>♦ A108843<br>♣ JS |      |
| ♠ J553<br>♥ A1092<br>♦ Q2<br>♣ 103 | ♠ 102<br>♥ Q7<br>♦ A108843<br>♣ JS |      |

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: ace of spades

After Handley opened One Club on the North hand, East passed. Most players would bid a pre-emptive Three Diamonds, which would have given South an awkward call. With a free run North-South then bid over-aggressively to Four Hearts, a contract which objectively has little chance. However, it was improved when West started with ace and another spade, won in dummy with East playing high-low.

Clearly declarer (Landy) had to try to get her diamonds away before letting the defence in with a trump, so she continued with three top clubs. East ruffed the third round small. Landy overruffed, cashed the ace of hearts and crossed to dummy with a spade. When that stood up she was able to discard a diamond on the fourth club before playing a trump, and

all the defence got were a spade, heart and diamond.

Even after the poor start to the defence, do you see how East could have defeated the contract? If she ruffs the third club with the queen of hearts declarer has no answer. If she overruffs the best she can do is play trumps, allowing the defence to take a trump and two diamonds for one off. If she overruffs and plays a spade East gets a ruff and is able to cash two diamonds — the contract is two off. And discarding on the queen of hearts is also one off.

□ *The Times Book of Bridge 1* is now available in all good bookshops or direct from the publisher, B.T. Batsford, on 01376 321276, price £6.99 (plus £1 postage and packing).

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Philip Howard

**ASHPLANT**  
a. An ash bucket  
b. To flog  
c. A mistake

**EXODONTIA**  
a. Esther Rantzen teeth  
b. Extraction of teeth  
c. Gating out of one's way

**GONGORA**  
a. A sexual disease  
b. A lizard  
c. An orchid

**COMITADUI**  
a. Comradeship  
b. A partisan  
c. A male companion

Answers on page 50

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Dynamic duo

The powerful tournament in Belgrade has ended in a clear success for Vassily Ivanchuk, the Ukrainian grandmaster, and the Indian grandmaster, Anand, will have been particularly pleased since he won his individual game against Vladimir Kramnik, of Russia, widely believed to be the most likely challenger to Kasparov's championship title.

Indeed, Kramnik's performance at Belgrade was unimpressive and he subsequently threatened to withdraw from the Fide (World Chess Federation) version of the world championship to be played in December and January.

In the following game Ivanchuk exploits a space advantage to squeeze to death the Bulgarian grandmaster Kiril Georgiev.

White: Vassily Ivanchuk

Black: Kiril Georgiev

Belgrade, November 1997

English Opening

|       |      |
|-------|------|
| 1 c4  | e5   |
| 2 Nf3 | g5   |
| 3 d4  | cxd4 |
| 4 Nc3 | Nf6  |
| 5 Bc4 | Nb6  |
| 6 Ne3 | g6   |
| 7 Bf1 | Nc4  |

Belgrade final cross-table

|              | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | Pts |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|-----|
| 1 Ivanchuk   | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1  | 10  |
| 2 Anand      | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1  | 9   |
| 3 Shirov     | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1  | 8   |
| 4 Lautner    | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1  | 8   |
| 5 Gelfand    | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1  | 8   |
| 6 Kramnik    | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1  | 8   |
| 7 Selesnev   | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1  | 8   |
| 8 Georgiev   | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1  | 8   |
| 9 Ljubojevic | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1  | 8   |
| 10 Kovacevic | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1  | 8   |

In the above table, 1 represents a win, ½ a draw and 0 a loss

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Speelman — Martin, British championship 1982.

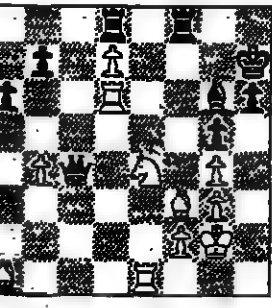
Although White has only two pawns left, his queen, his active play and passed pawn on d7 give him all the chances. How did he now finish off?

Solution on page 50



Diagram of final position

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



## LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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### LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

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## Paul Standbridge, Toshiba's new skipper, puts faith in his crew in the Whitbread Round the World Race



Standbridge: long-term game

Despite being the new skipper of Toshiba, I decided to hand over the starting sequence, as we set out from Cape Town to Fremantle on the second leg of the Whitbread, to Ross Macdonald on the helm, Stevie Cotton doing tactics and Andrew Cape navigating. They are world champions in their fields and I knew we would be in safe hands. My only brief was that we had a clean, safe start. In the event, we emerged from the short circuit round Table Bay in third place. Lawrie Smith, on *Silk Cut*, led us to windward up the Sea Point shoreline, while Gunnar Krantz, on *Swedish Match*, took his now famous offshore option. We thought about it, but chose to stay in contact with Smith and the rest of the fleet.

## Ice left us shaken but undeterred

By the time we were in Llandudno Bay, it had become incredibly frustrating. The wind had reduced to zero, while *Swedish Match*, the eventual leg winner, sailed off over the horizon. For the rest of us, the wind did not fill in until dusk, when Toshiba had fallen into her all too familiar sixth place. Our big tactic was to go south as quickly as possible for stronger, westerly winds. I am sure the whole fleet had this in mind, but there are degrees to which one can push it, depending on the wind shifts. At this point, the six-hourly position schedules were misleading, since anyone heading east

appeared closer to Australia, while those, like us, heading south seemed to be worse off. For a long time, Toshiba remained in seventh or even eighth position, but we were playing a long-term game. After *Swedish Match*, the next to get away was *Knut Frostad's Innovation Kvaerner*. She chose to head to the extreme western side of the course, which, again from our weather data, appeared advantageous for a long-term gain, but we decided to let her go in order to remain in touch with the rest of the fleet as we continued to pursue our southerly goal.

Our first gear failure came when the block for the topmast backstay broke while we were carrying a pothead spinnaker in 30 knots of breeze. When it went, it hit Dave Blanchfield in the backside, causing him severe pain and near heart failure. We hit the martini breaker, which releases the spinnaker, and then dropped the sail to save the topmast while we carried out repairs. The Roaring Forties were a disappointment for the first half of the leg. It was not until we got to 50 degrees south and the Kerguelen Islands that we found our first full gale. Our storm spinnaker

lasted only 45 minutes before it was ripped to shreds. The next smallest spinnaker met a similar fate, so we were reduced to our jibtop as our heavy air and running sail. For four days, we had 30 knots of wind with frequent snow squalls of up to 45 knots, with waves of sixty feet plus. We averaged 18 knots and often reached speeds of 25 knots as we surfed across the frozen wastes of the Southern Ocean. We kept a constant radar watch for icebergs, knowing that only the bigger ones would show up, leaving us to take our chances

with smaller, largely submerged ones. This makes for some fearful night sailing. The hard-tuning waves had taken out our pulp, pushing and half the stanchions, which left the boat a precarious platform on which to work. During one of the spinnaker sets, we lost control and David Allen was washed along the deck to the length of his lifeline. He hit the jockey pole and cracked four ribs. In agony, he managed to struggle back to the cockpit where we helped him below and put him on painkillers. He was inactive for the rest of the leg. Our first landfall after Cape Point was Rottnest Island, 4,600 miles down the track, and our spirits were high as we entered Fremantle harbour and crossed the finish line in third place.

## Planning to kill off the natural flow

Brian Clarke says that government housing schemes will bring death and destruction to angling territory



Beautiful fishing waters, such as this one in Devon, will be threatened by plans to build another 2.2 million homes

The Government's announcement that it is to sanction 2.2 million houses on the green belt and farmland in the next 20 years — the equivalent of 100-plus sizeable new towns — has appalled environmentalists and all those who love furred and feathered things. It should — it seems almost trivial to mention it, given the scale of the assault — appal anglers because of the great unanswered question that lies at the heart of the problem. We all know where the land for the houses will be found because we have been told. It will be found in every nook and cranny of the country. Tiny Rutland will get 2,000 new houses, faraway Devon will get 99,000, the equivalent of four new towns.

What no one has been told is where the water for these developments will come from. There has been no mention of that from the Government. There has been no mention of it from the Environment Agency. There has been no mention of it from the water companies.

However, I can reveal where much of the water will come from. It will come from our rivers and lakes. It will be pumped directly from some and it will be sucked up from the ground that gives rise to the springs that feed others.

And what will happen when the water is taken? Our rivers and lakes, already dying of thirst thanks to climate change and abstraction, will

shrink further. And what will happen when they shrink? The conditions on which all water life — and the sport of angling — depend, will alter.

Habitat will be lost to water plants and insects. Spawning grounds for all kinds of fishes will become dried out or filtered. As a result, fish populations of the future will be smaller. The loss of plants and insects will reduce present fish populations as competition and starvation take their toll.

Nearly all of this loss will occur out of sight, mind and knowing of the average citizen. It will all be in addition to the loss of the cuddly things that attract most public sympathy and before the resulting loss of the water life that does attract general concern — pretty things like kingfishers and water voles — becomes apparent.

There is more. It is not just that five or six million new country-dwellers will need to be provided with water; they will need services, too. They will need car parks and supermarkets, health centres and bowling alleys. These huge, new concrete and built-up square-mileages will prevent any rain that does fall from seeping into the ground. The result, as the Anglers' Conservation Association is warning, will need large-scale, instant run-off channelled down gutters and pipes and culverts.

This water will all be rushed into the hard, parched beds of drought-stricken, abstracted rivers — with unknown conse-

quences for water creatures. Where river beds have become colonised by plants because the water has fallen, flood-defence teams will move in to deepen them and avert overflowing. And so more habitat for plants and insects and fish will be dug up and destroyed.

The precedents are everywhere around us. Not long ago, I drove from my home in the South to the North. While there, I visited the places that I fished as a boy. The spot on the little River Darent, in Dartington, where, short-trousered and wide-eyed, I caught dazzling sticklebacks under a cork from a bottle has gone. The rushed banks are under feet-thick concrete, the waltzing

eddies are in a concreted conduit carrying a wide road. The place on the Tees where I caught my first proper fish has been dragged out and deepened.

The road north took me past the Newbury bypass. It slices through a reach of the Kennet river, not so many years ago, I netted a Kennet greenback trout weighing 5lb 3oz for a friend. On the upper Kennet, a river ruined by abstraction to meet ever-more development, I found a trout and a pike gasping side by side in a tiny pool cut off from the main flow. Predator and prey were bent only on survival, ignoring one another completely, facing — until I rescued them — certain death under the blazing sun.

Letters complaining about the havoc being wrought on our rivers and lakes by the road schemes and building programmes arrive regularly at this office from angling readers. A letter from one written a couple of weeks ago from South Leigh, in Oxfordshire, is typical. It highlighted the damage being done to the once-wonderful Windrush by overabstraction. The letter, understandably, is couched in terms of outrage and incredulity.

Alas, shameful though the plundering of the Windrush is, the reality is that rivers and aquifers everywhere are being pumped at a level far beyond that of the water resource to sustain it. Many wonderful schemes are mooted to alleviate the long-term problems, among them water grids that would carry supplies from areas of surplus to areas of need. Those who place confidence in such artificial schemes might care to note what happened recently to the little River Darent, in Kent. This chalk stream was so abstracted a few years ago that it dried up completely. A plan was drawn up to pump water from a series of specially sunk

boreholes to help to restore flow. It worked partially, for a while. Then, in the middle of some technical work on the river a few weeks ago, the Environment Agency team responsible for the task apparently ran out of budget. For three days, three of the pumps were switched off to save cash.

The remaining pumps proved unable to sustain an adequate flow and, over parts of its length, the Darent all but dried up. There was a colossal loss of invertebrate life and significant loss of fish life.

So, it seems, not even the most visible and public efforts to alleviate a water problem can be trusted. The Government's building plans pose a threat not only to green belt and farmland. They pose an immense threat to our shrinking supplies of ground water, to our rivers and lakes and much life within them. This is going to be true regardless of what we are eventually told. It is all a dead — a very dead — certainty.

Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month.

## Youngsters need to pursue variety of sporting skills

By JOHN GOODBODY

To achieve distinction in a sport as an adult, should youngsters concentrate on that activity virtually to the exclusion of all others? Or should they enjoy an all-round physical education, only gradually focusing on their chosen speciality?

As top-class sport becomes increasingly competitive, this dilemma is confronting youngsters, their parents, coaches and schoolteachers. Even in swimming and gymnastics, where the sports demand early expertise, PE teachers are often insisting, with much justification, that other sport should be practised in formative years.

In squash, as with most activities, maturity is vital. Jonath Barrington, the most celebrated Briton in the sport, insists: "For the majority of players, specialisation of players too early is very often counter-productive. I know there is an argument that technique should be in place by 13 years of age, but I just don't agree with it. I believe in a good all-round sports education for a young squash player."

Barrington believes that PE and sport should reflect academic work, with youngsters taking a wide variety of GCSEs, then three or four A-levels and only specialising in one subject at university. His own squash coach, Nazrullah Khan, one of the most distinguished names in the history of the sport, who was all-India tennis champion, who had simultaneous supreme skill at squash.

After a recession in interest in the 1980s, squash is now gaining in popularity amongst youngsters, with schools and clubs working to develop the sport. In the past, too much has relied on boys and girls being brought into the sport through their parents.

"We have had to re-educate clubs to become 'junior friendly', to set up junior sections and not to have places in the club which are 'no-go areas'," Barrington, the president of the Squash Racquets Association, said.

Most of the outstanding crop of English youngsters, who are among those benefiting from the £1.7 million of lottery funding that is under-

writing the eight-year world-class performance programme, have a broad base in the sport. Tania Bailey, the world junior champion, represented Lincolnshire in both the 100 metres and the long jump and, now 18, practises squash for two hours a day while studying for a two-year GNVQ course in leisure and tourism at Stamford College. She enjoys squash partly because of the aggression. "I so enjoy the hitting of the ball," she said.

Dominique Lloyd-Walker, 16, ranked No 6 in the country, is another with a broad background in sport, having represented Hertfordshire at breaststroke swimming, despite having started squash at six years old with the encouragement of her father, John, the champion of Middlesex. Vicky Lancaster, 16, like Bailey a member of England's



world junior championships-winning team, plays golf and tennis in the summer and, curiously, finds that there is more pressure on her in tennis, despite her success in squash. Some of her fellow-pupils at the County Upper School in Bury St Edmunds are "a bit jealous" of her sporting distinction. "But some are really proud of me and my best friends are all supportive," she said.

Among the boys, Peter Barker, the England No 1 in the under-15 age group, still plays football regularly. His brother is Philip Barker, the top-ranking England player in the under-16 group.

"My parents have encouraged us to play as many sports as we can," Peter Barker, a Brentwood School pupil, said. "I do get a particular buzz from squash. The adrenaline pumps harder than in other sports."

## Lloyds Bank Interest Rates for Personal Customers

## LLOYDS BANK BASE RATE

| Effective from 6 November 1997 | 7.25% per annum |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
|--------------------------------|-----------------|

## MORTGAGES

| Lloyds Bank Mortgage Rate, Home Loan Rate and Lloyds Bank Black Horse Mortgage Rate from 1 December 1997 | 8.70 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|

## SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

| Investment Account | Annual Option |       | Monthly Option |       |
|--------------------|---------------|-------|----------------|-------|
|                    | Gross %       | Net % | Gross %        | Net % |
| £100,000+          | 6.80          | 5.44  | 6.80           | 5.28  |
| £ 50,000+          | 6.40          | 5.12  | 6.22           | 4.98  |
| £ 25,000+          | 6.05          | 4.84  | 5.89           | 4.71  |
| £ 10,000+          | 5.65          | 4.52  | 5.51           | 4.41  |
| Below £10,000      | 0.50          | 0.40  | 0.50           | 0.40  |

| 30 Day Savings | Annual Option |       | Monthly Option |       |
|----------------|---------------|-------|----------------|-------|
|                | Gross %       | Net % | Gross %        | Net % |
| £25,000+       | 4.65          | 3.72  | 4.56           | 3.61  |
| £10,000+       | 4.30          | 3.44  | 4.22           | 3.38  |
| £ 5,000+       | 4.00          | 3.20  | 3.93           | 3.14  |
| Below £5,000   | 0.50          | 0.40  | 0.50           | 0.40  |

| Instant Gold Savings | Annual Option |       | Quarterly Option |       |
|----------------------|---------------|-------|------------------|-------|
|                      | Gross %       | Net % | Gross %          | Net % |
| £50,000+             | 6.00          | 4.80  | 5.87             | 4.70  |
| £25,000+             | 5.70          | 4.56  | 5.58             | 4.46  |
| £10,000+             | 5.40          | 4.32  | 5.29             | 4.23  |
| £ 2,500+             | 5.05          | 4.04  | 4.96             | 3.97  |
| £ 1+                 | 0.50          | 0.40  | 0.50             | 0.40  |

| Asset Management Service Investment Accounts | Interest Paid Monthly |       |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|
|                                              | Gross %               | Net % |
| £100,000+                                    | 6.60                  | 5.28  |
| £ 50,000+                                    | 6.22                  | 4.98  |
| £ 25,000+                                    | 5.89                  | 4.71  |
| £ 10,000+                                    | 5.51                  | 4.41  |
| Below £10,000                                | 0.50                  | 0.40  |

Interest rates may vary from time to time. This notice sets current rates.

GROSS - Gross rates, do not take into account deduction of tax at the lower rate.

NET - The rate of interest after deduction of tax at the lower rate; this is shown for illustrative purposes only.

Certain customers may be able to reclaim the tax from the interest received.

TAX-PAID - The annual interest rate when interest is exempt from income tax.

Interest is normally paid at the net rate, unless the Account falls within an exempt category or the Account-holder qualifies to receive interest gross.

These rates of interest apply with effect from 1 December 1997

Lloyds Bank Plc represents only the Lloyds Bank Marketing Group for life assurance, pensions and trust business.



THE THOROUGHbred BANK.

Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS

## GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated  
\* denotes all-day match

## FOOTBALL

FA Cup First Round

Bolton v Newcastle (8.0)

Spokane v York (7.45)

RYMAN LEAGUE: Full Members Cup

Second Round: Bognor Regis v West

FA CUP: Second Round: Colchester v

Walsley (12.30)

WALSLEY LEAGUE: Premier

Division: Bognor Regis v West (12.30)

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## OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: European League

Manchester Storm v Belfast (7.30)

RACING: Newcastle (12.30), Newton Abbot

(1.0), Lingfield Park (AW, 12.40)

## WEDNESDAY

FA CUP: Second Round: Colchester v

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Division: Bognor Regis v West (12.30)







AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

# EUROPEAN SHORT BREAKS FROM £24

## 168 BREAKS IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

## CHOOSE TO TRAVEL BY CAR, TRAIN OR AIR

## GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES

Starting today, *The Times*, with Leisure Direction, offers readers the chance to take a short break in Europe from just £24 per person, which includes one night's accommodation and return fare.

Our money-saving packages are available for completed travel up to March 31, 1998. We give you a choice of 168 hotels in nine European countries: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands and Spain. Leisure Direction offers unbeatable prices for short breaks in Europe by car, train or plane.

The hotels featured this week range from two to five-star. In many you will get the sort of luxury to which you could easily become accustomed. In others you get value for money comfort. All bedrooms have private facilities. You can stay in one hotel for one night or longer, or combine a selection of hotels.

Most hotels allow one child under 12 to share your room at no extra cost. Cot and food charges are payable at the hotel.

Some of our short-break hotels are close to excellent golf courses. The majority also have a restaurant or are near to a wide choice of restaurants.

This offer gives you a unique double guarantee: no surcharges — whatever happens, the price quoted at the time of your reservation is the price you pay; and the lowest price — so if you find the same package holiday cheaper in the brochure of any other tour operator, Leisure Direction will beat that price.\*

### How the offer works

Simply choose your hotel from those listed today, and the rest of this week, and telephone Leisure Direction now to make your booking on: 0181-324 3001 for short breaks by car; 0181-324 3002 for short breaks by train; for short breaks by air call 0181-324 3003. Lines are open from Mon-Fri 9am-8pm, Sat 9am-5.30pm and 10am-4pm Sun.

Then collect four out of the six tokens published this week and attach them to the booking form which will be printed on Saturday, December 6, 1997. Post it to Leisure Direction within 15 days of making your booking.

All prices shown are based on the first night's accommodation, sharing a twin/double room on a bed and breakfast or room only basis, and includes the return fare for your chosen method of transport for completed travel up to March 31, 1998.

- The first price listed is travel by car.
- The second price listed is travel by Eurostar.
- The third price listed is travel by air.
- The fourth price quoted is for additional nights.
- The last figure is the number of free child (under 12) accommodation places.

You can extend your stay at any of the hotels (a maximum of four night's self-drive). Please specify at the time of your original booking. To work out the cost, just add the additional night price per person for each extra night.

Eurostar and scheduled air breaks are subject to a minimum stay, generally 2/3 nights, when travelling midweek. There is a supplement of £15 per person for travel on Eurostar on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Hotel-only bookings can also be made. A booking fee is payable. For more information, call Leisure Direction on 0181 324 3001.

\*Subject to availability, similar conditions and restrictions applicable to total holiday invoice and valid until you pay your deposit.

THE TIMES  
Leisure Direction  
EURO BREAKS  
TOKEN 1

Brittany Ferries  
le Shuttle



### PARIS

**Sovereign Clichy** \*\*\*  
Charming small hotel Mon-Thurs add £10 per person per night  
RO £24 £84 £107 £15 1

**Sovereign St Ouen** \*\*  
On the banks of the Seine. Mon-Thurs add £10 per person per night  
RO £24 £84 £107 £15 1

**Sovereign St Denis** \*\*  
New hotel. Mon-Thurs add £10 per person per night  
RO £24 £84 £107 £15 1

**Hotel Godefruy** \*\*  
Five steps to the Arc de Triomphe  
RO £24 £84 £107 £15 1

**Forest Hill Boulogne** \*\*\*  
20-minute drive to Versailles  
RO £24 £84 £107 £15 1

**Hotel de Dion Bouton** \*\*  
Close to La Défense, overlooking the Seine  
BB £29 £89 £112 £17 1

**Hotel Espace Champereux** \*\*  
Recently renovated, direct line to Opera  
BB £29 £89 £112 £17 1

**Balladins Alexandre Opera** \*\*  
Walk to major department stores  
RO £29 £89 £112 £17 1

**Climat Gare de l'Est** \*\*  
Modern hotel, close to Eurostar terminal  
RO £29 £89 £112 £17 1

**Hotel le Regence** \*\*  
Traditional, close to La Défense  
BB £29 £89 £112 £17 1

**Hotel Savoy** \*\*  
Quiet location in Clichy close to metro  
BB £29 £89 £112 £17 1

**Jardin de Paris République** \*\*  
Close to the lively Place de la République  
RO £29 £89 £112 £17 1

**Amarsy Lesmarok** \*\*  
Near Montmartre, renovated hotel  
RO £29 £89 £112 £17 1

**Confort Inn Porte de Clichy** \*\*\*  
Restaurant and piano bar  
RO £29 £89 £112 £17 1

**Neuilly Park** \*\*\*  
Quiet street in fashionable Neuilly  
BB £29 £89 £112 £17 1

**Princesse Isabelle** \*\*\*  
Free access to fitness centre  
BB £29 £89 £112 £17 1

**Hotel Europe** \*\*\*  
In the smart, suburb of Clichy  
BB £29 £89 £112 £17 1

**Hotel Syrac** \*\*\*  
Modern hotel, overlooking the Seine  
BB £29 £89 £112 £17 1

**Climat Montmartre** \*\*  
Close to Montmartre  
RO £29 £89 £112 £17 1

**Hotel Anacardus** \*\*  
Convenient for the Eiffel Tower  
BB £29 £89 £112 £17 1

**Campanile Louis Blanc** \*\*  
Close to the Eurostar terminal  
RO £29 £89 £112 £17 1

**Hotel de Neuville** \*\*\*  
Former 19th century mansion  
RO £31 £91 £114 £20 1

**Forest Hill la Villette** \*\*\*  
Opposite the Cité des Sciences  
RO £32 £92 £115 £21 1

**Jardin de Paris Montmartre** \*\*  
Close to the Sacre Coeur  
BB £34 £94 £117 £22 1

**Hotel Etienne Marriot** \*\*\*  
Close to the Arc de Triomphe  
BB £39 £99 £117 £22 1

**Confort Inn Montmartre** \*\*\*  
Near the heart of the Latin Quarter  
BB £39 £99 £117 £22 1

**Duquesne Eiffel** \*\*\*  
Walking distance of Eiffel Tower  
BB £39 £99 £117 £22 1

**St Paul** \*\*\*  
Dates back in part to the 17th century  
BB £44 £104 £127 £31 1

**Jardin de Paris Marais** \*\*\*  
In the heart of the historic Marais  
BB £44 £104 £127 £31 1

**Hotel Trison Rive Gauche** \*\*\*  
Charming, traditional Left Bank hotel  
BB £44 £104 £127 £31 1

**St James & Albany** \*\*\*\*  
Opposite the Tuilleries, close to Louvre  
BB £49 £109 £132 £35 1

**Parillon Bastille** \*\*\*  
Opposite the new Opera House  
BB £49 £109 £132 £35 1

**Terrace Hotel** \*\*\*\*  
Good location, on the edge of Montmartre  
BB £59 £119 £142 £44 1

**Relais St Jacques** \*\*\*\*  
Close to the Jardin de Luxembourg  
BB £59 £119 £142 £44 1

**Elysées Regence** \*\*\*\*  
Close to Champs Elysées  
BB £64 £124 £147 £50 1

**Pergolase** \*\*\*\*  
Designer decor, created by Hermes  
BB £39 £99 n/a £30 2

**Hotel Standish** \*\*\*\*  
Close to the Place Vendôme  
BB £39 £99 £129 £25 1

**AMSTERDAM**

**Tulip Inn Oostpoort** \*\*\*  
Close to Tropical Museum  
BB £39 £99 £126 £25 1

**Imhof Zaandam** \*\*\*\*  
Close to fishing village of Volendam  
BB £39 £99 £126 £25 1

**Galaxy Hotel** \*\*\*\*  
Modern, central hotel, free parking  
BB £39 £99 £126 £25 1

**Jolly Hotel Carlton** \*\*\*\*  
Opposite flower market and canal  
BB £44 £104 £131 £30 1

**Barbizon Palace** \*\*\*\*  
Central hotel with Michelin-starred restaurant  
BB £54 £114 £141 £45 1

**BRUGES**

**Isle Centrum** \*\*\*  
Within walking distance of centre  
BB £34 £94 n/a £21 1

**Academie** \*\*\*\*  
Close to the Lake of Love  
BB £39 £99 n/a £25 1

**Grand Hotel Oude Burg** \*\*\*  
Close to the magnificent belfry  
BB £39 £99 n/a £25 1

**Novotel Centrum** \*\*\*  
Short walk to Lake of Love  
BB £39 £99 n/a £30 2

**BRUSSELS**

**Mercure Royal Crown** \*\*\*\*  
Opposite the Botanical Gardens  
RO £34 £94 £124 £21 1

**Delfia** \*\*\*\*  
Modern, excellent location  
BB £39 £99 £129 £25 1

**Diplomat** \*\*\*\*  
Close to the Avenue Louise  
BB £39 £99 £129 £25 1

**Leopold** \*\*\*\*  
Gastronomic restaurant. Mon-Thurs £20 per person per night  
BB £39 £99 £129 £25 1

**Clubhouse** \*\*\*\*  
Central and stylish hotel. Mon-Thurs £5 per person per night  
BB £39 £99 £129 £25 2

**Ghent**

**Isle Opera** \*\*\*  
Close to the medieval centre  
RO £29 £89 n/a £19 1

**Novotel Centrum** \*\*\*  
Close to the Belfry and Cathedral  
RO £44 £104 n/a £34 2

**ANTWERP**

**Isle Centrum** \*\*\*  
In the heart of the historic city  
RO £34 £94 n/a £21 1

**Novotel Noord** \*\*\*  
Seven km north of the centre  
RO £34 £94 n/a £21 2

**BB = Bed and breakfast  
RO = Room only**



**THREE WAYS TO TRAVEL**

You can choose to travel to your short break destination by car, Eurostar, or scheduled air services.

● **EURODRIVE: TRAVEL BY CAR**  
Prices quoted are per person, based on one car and four adults sharing two rooms, travelling on Le Shuttle with the exception of Ireland which is Stena Line and Normandy/ Brittany which is with Brittany Ferries.

● **EUROSTAR: TRAVEL BY HIGH-SPEED RAIL**  
Prices are based on standard class return travel from London Waterloo or Ashford International, Kent and are subject to a minimum stay of two nights when travelling out between Sun-Thurs, inclusive. But you can stay for one night on Friday or Saturday.

● **EUROFLIGHTS: TRAVEL BY SCHEDULED AIR**  
Prices are per person, based on two adults sharing a twin or double room and travelling on selected return scheduled flights from London. Hotel transfers are not included. Our specially negotiated fares apply to restricted space on designated flights when your break includes either a Saturday night or a minimum of two nights stay. Some airlines specify a minimum of three nights stay midweek. Call Leisure Direction for details and supplements. Regional air departures from Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow are available at a supplement. All prices include airport taxes.

**CHILDREN**

**By Car:** Where free child places are indicated, this number of children under 12 will travel free of charge on all EuroDrive breaks when sharing with two adults. Children not sharing with two adults, pay the full price.

**By Eurostar:** When free child places are indicated, this number of children under 12 pay the adult first night price, including any applicable travel supplement, minus the additional night price for the hotel. The child price applies when sharing with two adults. Children not sharing will pay the full adult price. Children up to three years old can travel free if they sit on the lap of an accompanying adult.

**By Air:** Child prices are calculated as per Eurostar. Except children under two pay £25 each and will be expected to sit on the lap of an accompanying adult.

**SUPPLEMENTS**

£15 pp weekend supplement Eurostar  
£10 pp supplement for car with two/three passengers. Additional supplement apply on Brittany and Stena on selected departures. Leisure Direction will advise you of these when you book.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE**

It is a condition of this offer that travellers have adequate insurance cover. Leisure Direction can offer you specially negotiated rates. Details are available on request.

**BOOK TODAY**

SHORT BREAKS BY CAR  
**0181 324 3001**

SHORT BREAKS BY TRAIN  
**0181 324 3002**

SHORT BREAKS BY AIR  
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CHANGING TIMES

مكتبة النور







## Assignment to obtain legal aid valid

**Norglen Ltd (in liquidation) v Reeds Rains Prudential Ltd and Others**  
**Circuit Systems Ltd (in liquidation) and Another v Zaken-Redac (UK) Ltd**  
 Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Nolan, Lord Hoffmann and Lord Clyde  
 [Speeches November 27]

The assignment of a cause of action to an individual by a company in liquidation, which was otherwise valid, was not to be treated as invalid or unenforceable on the ground that the assignment was to be pursued with the benefit of legal aid and to avoid an order for security for costs.

Nor could an application by an individual assignee to be substituted as plaintiff in the action in place of the company in liquidation properly be refused on the ground that the reason for the assignment was to obtain legal aid.

It was a question of construction of the Legal Aid Act 1988 whether the Legal Aid Board had a discretion to grant legal aid to an individual assignee in such circumstances and it was for the Lord Chancellor in his rule-making capacity and for the discretion of the Legal Aid Board to identify abuses of the legal aid scheme and deal with them.

The House of Lords so held when:

1 Dismissing an appeal by the first to fourth defendants in the Norglen action, Reeds Rains Prudential Ltd, Jonathan Sharp, Graham Richardson and Metier Property Holdings Ltd, against the decision of the Court of Appeal (The Times December 6, 1995, [1995] 1 WLR 864) that the assignment of a cause of action by the liquidator of the plaintiff company, Norglen Ltd, to its shareholders and former directors, Clive Rodgers and Pauline Rodgers, was valid; that there was no jurisdiction to make an order for security for costs against Mr and Mrs Rodgers on their application to be substituted as plaintiffs in the action; and that it would not in the circumstances be right to make an order against Norglen; and

2 Dismissing an appeal by the defendant company in the Circuit Systems action, Zaken-Redac (UK) Ltd, against a decision of the Court of Appeal (The Times April 5, 1996:

[1997] 1 WLR 721) that a similar assignment by the plaintiff, Circuit Systems Ltd (in liquidation), to a majority shareholder, William James Basten, for £1 was valid.

Mr and Mrs Rodgers and Mr Basten had obtained legal aid to prosecute the assigned causes of action.

**Norglen:** Mr Rupert Jackson, QC and Mr John Greenhouse for the first and second defendants; Mr Peter W. Smith, QC for the third and fourth defendants; Mr Charles Purk, QC and Mr David Stern for Mr and Mrs Rodgers; Mr David Stern for the liquidator, Circuit Systems; Mr Roger Henderson, QC and Mr Michael Kent for the defendants; Mr Charles Sparrow, QC and Mr Graham Shipley for the plaintiffs.

**LORD HOFFMANN** said that the law was traditionally hostile to the assignment of causes of action in bankruptcy was, however, quite different. The courts had recognised that they often had no assets with which to fund litigation and that in such a case the only practical way in which they could turn a cause of action into money was to sell it, either for a fixed sum or a share of the proceeds, to someone who was willing to take proceedings in his own name; see *Seear v Lawson* (1880) 15 Ch D 426, 433; *Ramsay v Harley* (1977) 1 WLR 686, 698; and *Guy v Churchill* (1888) 40 Ch D 481.

In the face of that line of authority, counsel for the defendants sought to rely on the impact of legal aid and the effect on a defendant's right to security for costs. The assignments could not be challenged.

The chief question in both appeals was therefore whether the assignments were valid or unenforceable because they would enable a company to benefit indirectly from legal aid.

That was the view of the Court of Appeal in *Advanced Technology Structures Ltd v Gray Valley Products Ltd* (1993) 8 LGR 723, Lord Justice Hirst said that the assignment was "a mere stratagem or device to enable the company to carry on the proceedings, with the benefit of the

assignee's legal aid" demonstrating that the assignment was a sham.

If the question was whether a given transaction was such as to attract a statutory benefit, such as a grant of assistance, like legal aid, or a statutory burden, such as income tax, his Lordship did not think that it promoted clarity of thought to use terms like "stratagem" or "device". The question was simply whether upon its true construction, the statute applied to the transaction.

Tax avoidance schemes were perhaps the best example. They either worked, or they did not work. If they did not work, the reason was simply that upon the true construction of the statute, the transaction which was designed to avoid the charge to tax actually came within it.

It was not that the statute had a penumbra of spirit which struck down devices or stratagems designed to avoid its terms or exploit its loopholes. There was no need for such spooky jurisprudence.

The way in which the matter came before the House of Lords made it undesirable for it to express any opinion on the way in which the Legal Aid Board should deal with such cases under the existing scheme. The board had not been a party to the proceedings and the legality of the board's exercise of its public powers and discretions was not an issue in either of the appeals. The House was concerned solely with the validity, as a matter of private law, of the assignments by the two companies to Mr and Mrs Rodgers and Mr Basten, respectively.

The question of how the board should have exercised its discretion in granting them legal aid or whether, as a matter of construction of the 1988 Act, it had such a discretion, was not relevant. For the board either had such a power or it did not.

If Parliament conferred such a power, there was no ground for saying that it must be taken implicitly to have prohibited such assignments or that the Act required that to be done as a matter of public policy.

The Act required in general terms the possibility of abuse but left it to the rule-making power of the Lord Chancellor and the discretion of the board to identify such abuses and deal with them.

**Advanced Technology Structures Ltd v Gray Valley Products Ltd** was wrong to hold that the assignment was invalid.

Nor was there anything in the point that the assignment was avoided because it deprived the defendants of the right to apply for security for costs under section 72b of the Companies Act 1985.

For better or worse, the law entitled a defendant to be protected against incurring irrecoverable costs in litigation brought against him by an impecunious company but not by an impecunious individual. But that could not prevent companies from assigning property to individuals.

It followed that the *Circuit Systems* appeal would be dismissed.

Mr Smith advanced an alternative argument for the third and fourth defendants in the *Norglen* appeal based on what he said was misconduct on the part of the liquidator in assigning the company's cause of action. Those allegations had no present relevance.

The liquidator had a statutory power to assign the company's cause of action and had exercised that power. If his exercise of the power was a breach of duty to the company and its creditors, that was a matter of which the creditors might complain in the Companies Court. It did not affect the validity of the assignment.

In the *Norglen* appeal, Mr Jackson accepted that if the assignment was effective to transfer the cause of action to the assignee, Mr and Mrs Rodgers, their joinder as parties was necessary and he submitted that in the exercise of the court's discretion under Order 15, rule 7(2) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, joinder should have been refused on the ground that the prosecution of the action by the Rodgers would be an abuse of legal aid; alternatively, that joinder should have been subject to a condition that Norglen provide security for costs.

Once it was accepted that, in spite of the finding that the assignment was a stratagem or device to obtain legal aid, it was nevertheless valid, there were no grounds upon which joinder could properly be refused.

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the court refusing to join a plaintiff who had a good title to sue.

Mr Jackson's alternative argument was that before ordering substitution the Court of Appeal should have re-imposed the condition imposed by Mr Justice Morris that Norglen give security for costs and left it to take effect against Mr and Mrs Rodgers by virtue of Order 15, rule 8(4) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

On the other hand, Mr Purk said that the rule could not have the effect of making an order for security, based upon an assessment of the means of a corporate plaintiff, effective against a new individual plaintiff.

It was unnecessary to decide that question because if it would not be right to make an order for security as a condition of substitution, it would not be right to achieve the same effect in the highly artificial manner suggested by Mr Jackson.

The Court of Appeal assumed that there was a power to impose such a condition and decided a matter of discretion not to exercise it.

The reasoning of Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, in *Euromark Sales Ltd v Cornhill Insurance plc* (1993) 1 WLR 157, 1524F, concerning an application to be joined as an additional plaintiff under the county court equivalent of Order 15, rule 6 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, was a matter of which the court was equally to be concerned to apply equally to a condition imposed on an application for substitution under Order 15, rule 7 and suggested that it would be wrong to impose the condition sought by the defendants.

It was not, however, necessary to express a final view on whether that reasoning was correct because, in refusing to order security, the Court of Appeal in *Norglen* did not rely upon it. The court exercised its discretion on the ground that Norglen had sufficient assets to be able to meet all the costs for which it could be made liable.

His Lordship would therefore dismiss the *Norglen* appeal.

**LORD BROWNE-WILKINSON**, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Nolan and Lord Clyde agreed.

**Solicitors:** James Chapman & Co, Manchester; Jones Maidment & Wilson, Manchester; Bessie Fox & Co, Manchester.

**Mr David Whitaker, Fleet; Humphreys & Co, Bristol.**

## Letter was no requirement to leave the country

**Remedien v Secretary of State for Social Security and Another**  
**Regina v Same, Ex parte Wolke**  
 Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Hoffmann, Lord Hope of Craighead and Lord Hutton  
 [Speeches November 27]

A letter from the Home Office to a European national saying that she must make arrangements to leave the country as she had become a charge on public funds did not constitute a requirement to leave so as to end her entitlement to income support.

The ending of substantive entitlement to income support under paragraph 21(3)(b) of the Income Support (General) Regulations (SI 1987 No 1967), as amended by Regulation 4 of the Income-Related Benefits (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (SI 1993 No 315) could be triggered only by a deportation order or an order for removal under article 15(2) of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Order (SI 1994 No 1692).

The House of Lords so held by a majority, Lord Slynn dissenting, allowing appeals by Nathalie Remedien and Mery Wolke against a decision of the Court of Appeal (The Times July 12, 1996) to allow appeals, heard together, by the Secretary of State for Social Security and the Chief Adjudication Officer from Mr Justice Poppelwell and Mr Commissioner Mether respectively.

Mr John Howell, QC and Mr Stewart Wright for Ms Wolke; Mr Barry de Mello and Mr Leon Daniel for Ms Remedien; Mr Richard Pender, QC and Miss Geraldine Clark for the secretary of state.

**LORD HOFFMANN** said the appellants were single mothers, nationals of European Union states, who had come to England with men from whom they had since separated. The question in the appeals was whether they were entitled to income support.

In principle they were entitled by virtue of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 and the 1987 Regulations but paragraph 17 of Schedule 17 to the regulations said that a person was not entitled to the benefit of the Act if she was a person from abroad.

By regulation 21(3)(b) the definition of "person from abroad" included a person who "is a national of a member state and is required by the secretary of state to leave the United Kingdom". The short question was whether the secretary of state had required Ms Wolke and Ms Remedien to leave the United Kingdom.

Each had received a letter stating that in view of the fact that she was in the United Kingdom in a non-economic capacity and that she had "become" a burden on public funds, the secretary of state was not satisfied that she was lawfully resident under EC law, and she should now make arrangements to leave the United Kingdom.

A social security adjudication

officer in each case decided that the letters amounted to a requirement to leave the United Kingdom and brought them within the definition of persons from abroad.

Ms Wolke had sought judicial review of the officer's decision in the county court which had been quashed by Mr Justice Poppelwell. The officer's decision in Ms Remedien's case had been upheld by the Social Security Appeal Tribunal, but quashed on appeal to the Commissioner Mr Mether, because the letter lacked "the necessary degree of insistence or compulsion".

In the Court of Appeal, Lord Justice Kennedy had decided that both women came within the definition of a person from abroad and Sir Stephen Brown, President, had agreed. Lord Justice Phillips had dissented.

Paragraph (b) had been added following the decision of the European Court of Justice in *R v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Antonissen* (The Times February 27, 1991; [1991] ECR I-745). The key concept in that immigration control was that of having leave to enter. In most other European countries the right to enter was a consequence of the entrant's having the right to be there.

On accession to the European Community the Home Office had tried to reconcile the UK system with the European by granting nationals of other member states leave to enter for an initial six-month period without restriction as to employment or occupation. That had been held unlawful by the European Court in *R v P* (1981) QB 571 and the Home Office had subsequently admitted nationals of other member states without leave.

But Community law gave such nationals rights to reside here only for defined and limited purposes. What could be done about those who entered without leave but ceased to be qualified persons because they were not duly exercising their rights?

The Home Secretary had introduced *Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules* (HC 169) on February 9, 1983 which envisaged the issue of residence permits to Community nationals entering into employment or establishing themselves in business.

Paragraph 143 of the *Statement* provided that a person might be required to leave the UK, subject to appeal if he fell a charge on public funds before acquiring a work permit or if after six months he failed to enter employment or become established in business.

Paragraph (b) should be interpreted against the background of the decision of the European Court in *Ex parte Antonissen* that a member state could, subject to appeal, lawfully require a national of another member state to leave its territory if he had not found employment there after six months.

It was agreed, however, that the letters sent to the appellants had no effect upon their immigration status and did not give rise to any right of appeal to an immigration

adjudicator. If the respondents' construction of paragraph (b) was correct, it was a strange consequence of a regulation which was said to give effect to the decision in *Ex parte Antonissen* that it should give the appellants no effective right of appeal.

Mr Pender had argued that as a matter of Community law, there was no need for endorsement income support to be linked to being under a legal obligation to leave. The secretary of state could simply have excluded non-economic categories of persons resident under Community law rights from any claim to income support. The United Kingdom was required by treaty to provide equal treatment in social security matters to nationals of certain European countries lawfully present on its territory. In paragraph (b) the secretary of state had simply tried to limit the entitlement to benefits to persons lawfully present in the UK.

There were three difficulties with that argument: (i) paragraph (b) did not refer to a statement by the Home Secretary that Community nationals were not lawfully present, but said that he must have been required to leave; (ii) *Ex parte Antonissen*, from which the language was derived, did not enter into the question whether a person was lawfully present in the UK; (iii) the appellants were lawfully present in the UK until they had actually been required to leave.

Mr Pender had also argued that if paragraph (b) meant that there must have been a legal obligation to leave, it added nothing to paragraph (a) which was already in the definition before 1993 and concerned a person who was the subject of a deportation order, the only way in 1993 in which someone could have been placed under a legal obligation to leave.

Although that argument had impressed the Court of Appeal his Lordship rejected it. First, because one could not exclude the possibility that the secretary of state, or his advisers, were simply muddled about what *Ex parte Antonissen* had decided and second, because if most have been clear since *Ex parte Antonissen* that there would have to be legislation to create in domestic law a power of removal in the terms which that case had assumed to exist. Such a power had eventually been enacted in paragraph 14 of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Order 1994.

The Home Secretary's letters were not a requirement to leave. Such a requirement would involve the making, after any appeal had run its course, of a deportation order under article 15(2) of the 1994 Order. The appeals would be allowed.

Lord Slynn delivered a dissenting judgment but Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Hope and Lord Hutton agreed with Lord Hoffmann.

**Solicitors:** Mr David Thomas, Aikman, Powell & Co, Woolwich; Solicitor, Department of Social Security.

## Fears of residents relevant for planning decision

**West Midlands Probation Committee v Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions and Another**  
 Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Mummery  
 [Judgment November 7]

The fears of residents in a suburban street about the impact of a proposed bull housed extension were capable of being a relevant planning consideration.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the West Midlands Probation Committee from Mr Robin Purchas, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge (The Times October 18, 1996) who had dismissed an application to quash the dismissal by the secretary of state of an appeal by the probation committee from a refusal by Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council to grant planning permission for extension of a bull and probation hostel at

Stonall Road, Aldridge, West Midlands.

Mr Robert Griffiths, QC and Mr Robert Griffiths for the probation committee; Mr Michael Beall for the secretary of state; Mr Ian Porter for the council.

**LORD JUSTICE PILL** said the bull housed provided accommodation for twelve inmates, and the proposed extension would accommodate another eight.

The council had refused planning permission because the exis-

ing use of the premises was incompatible with the surrounding area and the incompatibility would be exacerbated by the extension.

An inspector found that the hostel had attracted numerous police visits, many late at night or early in the morning, some involving arrests, personal injuries or the breach of bail conditions. Bales had been fighting in the street, screaming and mutilating themselves, smashing crockery in pri-

ivate driveways and milk bottles in the road. The inspector found there were reasonable grounds for the residents' apprehension.

Mr Griffiths had maintained that apprehension and fear were not material planning considerations since they did not relate to the character of the use of the land. Mr Beall argued that public concern about the effect of a proposed development was a material planning consideration.

His Lordship did not consider that the incidents and occurrences which the inspector had found to have occurred could be divorced from the concerns and fears of residents, which arose from the disturbances.

The authorities showed that the impact of a proposed development upon the use of an activities on neighbouring land might be a material consideration; that in considering that impact, regard might be had to the use to which the neighbouring land was put, and that justified public concern in the locality about extensions from land as a result of its proposed development might be a material consideration.

Fear and concern felt by occupants of neighbouring land was as real in the instant case as in one involving polluting discharges and as relevant to their reasonable use of the land.

Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas agreed.

**Solicitors:** Wragge & Co, Birmingham; Treasury Solicitor; Mrs Sheila Hartman, Walsall.

## Aggravating feature of supplying drugs

**Regina v Bateman**

The supply of drugs to addicts who were trying to break the habit was rightly considered an aggravating feature of the offence of supplying drugs.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Henry, Mr Justice Gage and Mr Justice QC) so held on October 23 dismissing appeals by Lisa Jane Ball and Darren Bateman against 54-year prison sentences imposed in April 1997 at Kingston upon

Thames Crown Court by Judge Macrae for offences of supplying heroin and possessing heroin with intent to supply.

JUDGE TUCKER, giving the judgment of the court, said that police had targeted the vicinity of a drug rehabilitation centre for an undercover operation. Both the appellants sold substantial quantities of heroin to undercover police officers which made their pleas of guilty nearly inevitable.

It was clear the judge thought that an exemplary deterrent sen-

tence was called for and the deliberate targeting of the vulnerable required not only the contempt of the court but also an expression, in practical terms, of the need to deter others to mark the additional gravity.

It seemed to their Lordships that the judge had used seven years as his starting point because of the aggravating feature and had then given a discount, because of the near inevitability of the pleas, of one and a half years. That was entirely right.

## Scots Law Report December 1 1997 Outer House

## Architects owe no duty to tenants of client

**Strathford East Kilbride Ltd v Film Design Ltd**  
 Before Lord MacLean  
 [Judgment July 24]

In the absence of any agreement by tenants that architects under a building contract with the landlord had assumed responsibility towards them, the architects owed the tenants no duty to avoid causing them financial loss as a result of the services which they were obliged to provide under the contract with the landlord.

Lord MacLean, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held dismissing an action of damages at the instance of Strathford East Kilbride Ltd against Film Design Ltd and the third party, Rennie Partnership.

Miss Deirdre MacNeill, QC and Mr Alan Hamilton for the pursuers; Mr Nigel Ennis, QC and Mr John Wright, QC, for the defenders; Miss Isabella Ennis for the third party.

**LORD MACLEAN** said that the pursuers' parent company had contracted with the defenders for the provision of architectural and supervision of a new garage. The third party had been engaged with their approval as consulting engineer under a sub-contract with the defenders.

The garage was built on land acquired by the parent company but operated by a separate company.

The pursuers averred that the contract documents made it clear that the parent company would not be the only company with an interest in the operation of the garage, its purpose being for the new dealership to be operated from the completed buildings. It followed that the pursuers were

entitled to sue on the contract. The pursuers had subsequently agreed to lease the garage from their parent company.

Soon after trading had commenced, certain significant structural and other defects had appeared. The pursuers sought damages because during remedial works they had incurred substantial re-location costs and their business had been restricted and disrupted in consequence of which they had suffered diminution in profit and incurred additional interest charges.

They sought to recover on the grounds, inter alia, of breach of a duty of care and skill on the basis that either the pursuers were persons for whom the garage was being constructed, or they had a direct interest in the property as operators or as tenants or as one of the parties for whose benefit the contract was arranged and executed.

There was no averment that the defenders had known that the pursuers would be the operators of the garage. The pursuers made no averment that the defenders had assumed responsibility to them or that they themselves had relied upon the defenders' expertise as architects.

The defenders submitted that no duty in delict was owed to the pursuers by the defenders in the course of their providing services to the parent company not to cause economic loss consequent upon the defects averted.

In relation to the construction of buildings, there was no duty in delict not to cause economic loss to a person who was not the purchaser or tenant or subsequent occupier of a building in the absence of injury to persons or damage to other property.

The relationship of the parties was insufficiently proximate. Nor, they submitted, was there any liability on the special assumption of responsibility in accordance with *Hedley Byrne & Co Ltd v Heller and Partners Ltd* (1954) AC 413.

The pursuers maintained that the applicable principles were to be found in *Junior Books Ltd v Veluch Co Ltd* (1982) SC (HL) 244. With limited exceptions, these principles had been applied in Scotland even after *D & F Estates v Church Commissioners* (1989) 1 AC 177 and *Murphy v Breckwood District Council* (1991) AC 398.

There was no place in Scots law for the sharp compartmentalisation of damage between economic and physical loss. The principles enunciated in English cases should not be adopted without question in Scotland. As an authority, *Junior Books* had not been departed from.

His Lordship did not find that well founded. In the years following *Junior Books* the Scots courts had adopted decisions of the House of Lords in that field as authoritative and persuasive because they had considered that the laws of the two jurisdictions were the same in that field.

In no Scottish case had it been suggested that *D & F Estates* and *Murphy* did not apply. On the contrary, it had been held in a whole series of cases that those authorities represented Scots law. Scots law had not developed differently from English law in that field, and for that reason his Lordship saw no basis for applying Commonweath authorities.

**282 and CNR v North Pacific SS Co** (1991) DLR 289.

The pursuers in this case had never been in the contractual chain. They were strangers to the contract which was in a similar position legally to a defective acquirer, successor or possessor.

On the principles enunciated in *D & F Estates* those in the position of the pursuers had no claim for the recovery of pure economic loss as a result of a defective acquisition of property which was of such quality that they had come to acquire, succeed to or possess.

It remained to consider whether the pursuers could rely on the *Hedley Byrne* principle as developed in later cases. There the critical question was not the nature of the damage itself but whether the scope of the duty of care was such as to embrace damage of the kind for which the pursuers claimed (see *Murphy* at p485).

The defenders were in the position of sub-contractors in the contractual chain but the providers of services to the building owners. Was that relationship sufficiently special to justify the existence and recognition of a duty of care?

On consideration of the authorities, his Lordship concluded that, in the absence of any agreement by the pursuers that the defenders had assumed responsibility towards them, the defenders owed them as tenants no duty in the particular circumstances to avoid causing them financial loss in the services which they were obliged to provide under a contract with the pursuers' landlords. His Lordship also saw no distinction between the pursuers as tenants and any other singular successors.

**Law agents:** MacRobertson, Simpson & Marwick, Ws; McCure Nairn.

## AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

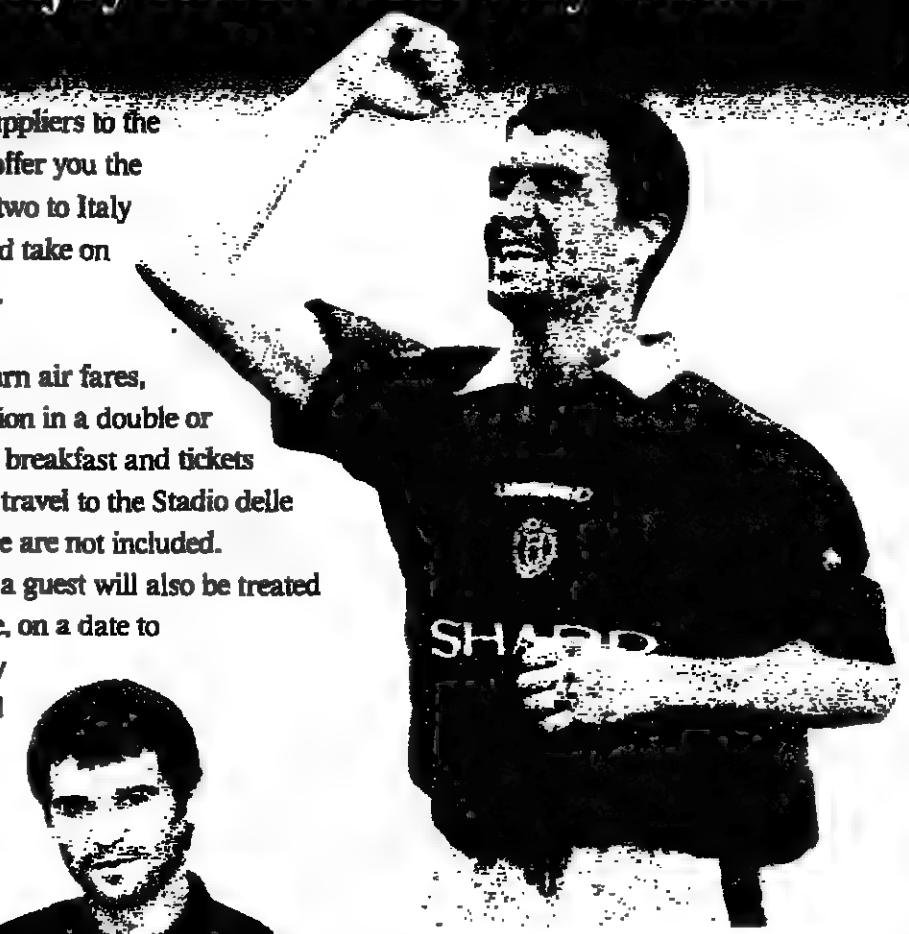
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CHANGING TIMES

مكتبة النجل



# Watch out, crooks about

Unemployment is falling, wages are rising, building society windfalls have been paid out and the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, has stirred the public conscience towards the less fortunate.

This should be a golden scenario for charities as they approach the crucial Christmas giving season. Yet the Princess's death may have polarised the charity sector even further, because her memorial fund has joined the National Lottery as a source of charity finance competing with the Christmas pageant and the street-corner tin can. It is clear that people have become much more choosy about to whom or what they give.

How much of the Diana effect has encouraged donations to individual charities will not be easy to judge. One charity that could have benefited was Shelter, given the Princess's concerns for the homeless. Yet Shelter says: "We have received a handful of donations totalling £5,000 that we can put down specifically to Princess Diana's death. Other people have probably given direct to the memorial fund."

Even that fund has failed to meet initial expectations. Talk that £150 million had poured in during the first few days has given way to the reality that the figure was probably between £11 million and £12 million, although that is still a

sizeable sum and it will be augmented by proceeds from the *Candle in the Wind* recording by Elton John and from other efforts.

As one charity worker remarked: "It looks as though someone got the decimal point in the wrong place."

Public donations may have been affected by the fact that, in the outpouring of emotions that followed the Princess's death, it was not clear precisely on what the money would be spent.

Charity-givers, perhaps daunted by the competing demands of a myriad good causes, and mindful of the street beggars and door-to-door duster-sellers who make a good living off the consciences of the unwary, have become more choosy about parting with their money. They want to know who will benefit

Andrew Orme, the chairman of Direct Marketing, which specialises in fundraising through direct mail, says: "There is more competition between charities and the ones that are succeeding are those that are getting cleverer at understanding who their supporters are and what they want from the charity. A lot of smaller charities are not doing so well because they

lack this expertise. You have to tap into whatever support people are prepared to give. Some want to give cash, some want to find out more about what you do, others want to buy cards and other items. You cannot just say this is us, take it or leave it."

He speaks from experience. His organisation acts for eight charities, including the Samaritans and the British Heart Foundation.

Whether the Diana effect is filtering through to charities will take time to emerge. Susan Osborne, director of corporate communications at the Cancer Research Campaign, explains: "Because we are an enormous charity, the fourth biggest in the country, we are like a giant tanker and it takes time for changes to take effect. We have 1,000 local committees who send money in at the end of the year. However, the word from the street is that there has not been an immediate uplift."

Claire Mallinson, the head of fundraising at Scope, agrees that it is a little early to judge the effect of Diana's death, but she points to the hopeful sign that many people who do not normally make donations

apparently did so to the memorial fund. She says: "There were a lot of low-value donations from a wide range of people across the country. We hope that they will take the opportunity to support charities in future."

The hope must be that consciences will be touched at the festive season. As Mr Orme says: "People who make one donation a year tend to do it at Christmas."

Ms Mallinson agrees. "Christmas is the time when our regular supporters and our occasional supporters make donations to Scope," she says. "We are hoping that about £1 million will be donated by individual givers. That will be 25 and 30 per cent of personal donations and I think that is probably typical for charities."

**S**cope changed its name from the Spastics Society three years ago and she admits that is taking time for the new name to become widely known. But she believes that Scope has benefited from the upturn in the economic cycle. She says: "Certainly, in the past three years we have seen an increase in our income."

Ms Osborne adds: "I think that people are now giving more because of the end of the recession. What big charities have to do is to watch the trends so they can target their efforts."



ONE PROBLEM faced by genuine charities at Christmas is the rogue collector who pockets the proceeds. Surprisingly, the law does not prevent any competent crook from registering or acquiring registered charities, *Peter Brown writes.*

Once over that hurdle, he or she can go to a jobcentre and hire temporary staff to collect outside supermarkets. As long as they are on private property they do not need a licence. So the onus is on the shop manager to check: but how?

Three years ago Charity Check, a private company, was set up to keep a database of references from good sources. Since then Philip Cowen, its director, claims to have prevented many dubious collections from taking place. "Charity crooks can be very plausible, using grand-sounding names," he says.

Stuart Crookshank, the Charity Commission's regional operations manager (London), says the law is being revised and that monitoring procedures have been tightened. He also points out that if collectors avoid the word "charity" they do not need to be registered at all.

But he agrees that supermarket managers should be careful. "The fundraising law is not robust. Managers should always ask exactly where the money is going. Genuine charities will very quickly give the answers."


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# Bulgaria in Crisis

BBC launches Appeal

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There is little money to heat the orphanages. Orphanage Directors are having to beg for food from local villages and rarely know where the next meal is coming from. In some cases orphans, like Yordan, are going hungry and the cold could prove fatal for many children this winter. Without aid this could be catastrophic for Bulgaria's orphanage children.

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|                                  |                                         |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
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| Address:<br><br>                 | Address:<br><br>                        |

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Edward Fennell explains the idea that improves performance and service to the public

## Getting better all the time

The 365 organisations that receive their Charter Mark awards today are the advance guard in what is likely to become a revamped approach to "quality services" for the people.

Stretching from Benefit Agency offices through to the Victoria and Albert Museum, and taking in hospitals, prisons, local government and many other organisations on the way, the Charter Mark winners are receiving what Peter Kilfoyle, Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office, describes as a "badge of merit" for their work.

Although the Charter Mark and the Charter Mark principles that stemmed from it were once strongly identified with John Major, Labour has taken them to its heart. More than that, Cabinet Office ministers now proclaim the Charter initiative as theirs. According to the member for Liverpool, Walton, the intellectual property rights to the Charter Mark really belong to Herbert Morrison, grandfather of Peter Mandelson, another Cabinet Office minister. Mr Kilfoyle says the

expression "Citizen's Charter" was first used in a pamphlet by Herbert Morrison in the 1930s.

The first practical application is claimed by the Labour administration in York in the 1980s. Mr Kilfoyle comments: "There may have been civil servants in the Cabinet Office who were worried about whether we would continue to support Charter Mark, but it was never under threat. It was self-evidently worthwhile. After all, why should the devil have all the best tunes?"

In fact, it was clear from Labour's general election manifesto that the Charter Mark had won cross-party support. As a means of recognising good performance and a tool for spreading best practice, the initiative is having an impact. To the 365 organisations that receive it today must be added all those other hundreds of organisations

that have won it during the past five years and who, as they come up for reassessment, make up an ever-increasing roll-call of organisations that have met the rigorous standards demanded by the Charter Mark assessors (for example, 40 per cent of UK police forces and 31 per cent of local authorities have now won Charter Marks).

Subsequent tests have shown that Charter Mark organisations do deliver a better service. They perform better than average against service standards, provide more choice to their users and consult more over a larger range of subjects. For example, housing departments with Charter Marks get a satisfaction rating of 81 per cent in relation to how they handle repairs, whereas the average figure is 54 per cent. Charter Mark refuse collectors, meanwhile, are



Kilfoyle: Mr Charter Mark

four times less likely than the average to miss a collection.

According to Mr Kilfoyle, the Charter Mark criteria that cover ten areas of activity (from perfor-

mance standards to planned improvement) now represent a benchmark of excellence to which all public services should aspire. There is no compulsion on public sector organisations to apply for Charter Mark, nor to undergo the assessment process which then follows, but Mr Kilfoyle looks forward to the day when everyone is delivering at the level demanded by Charter Mark. As he points out, many more organisations each year request information about the programme than submit entries and the hope is that the philosophy at the heart of Charter Mark is gradually percolating through the myriad organisations — the NHS, the local authorities, executive agencies and public utilities — that the scheme covers.

"It's really about a change in culture," said Mr Kilfoyle. "We want to put pride back into the

public services." The view which seemed to come from the Conservatives, according to Mr Kilfoyle, was that the public sector was second-rate when compared to the private sector. This will now change. Instead, public servants are to be accorded more respect and the Charter Mark will increasingly serve as an acknowledgment of their achievements.

Changes in the Charter Mark programme are, however, likely. A wide-scale review is currently taking place and a variety of new approaches are being considered for the future. One of them, almost certainly, is that the Charter Mark principles should be regarded as a framework for self-assessment, against which public services should measure themselves on a regular basis.

"The Charter Mark itself is the icing on the cake — public recognition of excellence," he says. "More important is that services should be delivered with the Charter Mark spirit."

One way of expressing this is through the notion of "the extra mile". Mr Kilfoyle and the civil servants who work in the Charter Unit would like to see a change in attitude so that civil servants, nurses and teachers, rather than delivering the minimum service, are prepared to make the extra effort in order to ensure that individual members of the public receive a first-class service.

Ideally, that would be achieved by "bottom-up" attitudes. If there is any complaint about Charter Mark at present, it is on the ground that it is too "top-down": managements impose change on their staff. The new approach will encourage front-line staff to make the running in setting high standards for their own work and transmitting that to others. But that also implies, says Mr Kilfoyle, that more effort should be made to listen to those front-line staff.

## A strict eye on standards

Edward Fennell explains how the system works and benefits those it assesses

Assessors for Charter Mark are so thorough they could easily be mistaken for management consultants aiming to get to the bottom of how an organisation works.

This year the assessors, who normally go out in groups of two or more, visited all 947 applicants for Charter Marks. It is an enormous commitment by the Charter Unit. Unlike other "standards" no charge is made for the visits, yet the quality of expertise involved is high. Like Fred Weston, an assessor who was formerly Assistant Principal at Dudley College of Technology, almost all the assessors are highly experienced public servants, often recently retired and with distinguished records. The remainder are senior managers seconded from well-regarded private-sector organisations who bring an additional dimension to the assessment process. Although the national judges make the final decision on the award of Marks, the assessors' visits are considered helpful external scrutiny organisations.

That was why Peter Kilfoyle, who is responsible for the Charter Unit, went on an assessment himself soon after being appointed to his ministerial role. The visit helped to convince him of the Charter Mark's worth. By chance, it involved a service he knew about and the depth of the inquiry reassured him that award of a Charter Mark was no mere Whitehall gong but a real endorsement of quality.

As Mr Weston comments:

"A single question to a member of staff or a manager such as 'Who do you regard as your customers?' can be revealing about an organisation and how it operates." Public-sector organisations now vary in quality. There are still many that continue with their traditional assumptions or gut instincts about who they are serving and their purpose within the community unchallenged. The Charter Mark criteria require that organisations go back to examine these issues in depth to ensure they are properly targeted.

Some of the areas assessors look at include:

**Performance standards**  
● Organisations should set, monitor and publish explicit standards for the services that individual users can reasonably expect. They should also publish performance against those standards.

**Information and openness**  
● Full accurate information should be readily available in plain language about how public services are run, what they cost, how well they perform and who is in charge.

**Consultation and choice**  
● Organisations should provide choice wherever practicable. There should be regular consultation with users whose views and priorities should be taken into account.

**Value for money**  
● The services should be able delivered efficiently within available resources.

**User satisfaction**  
● Applicants need to be able to show that users are satisfied with the service.

**Improvements in service quality**  
● There should be measurable or demonstrable improvements in the quality of service during the previous two to three years.

**Planned improvements and innovations**  
● There should be commitment to continuous improvement.

**Performance since prior achievement of Charter Mark**  
● Organisations' being reassessed, having already won a Charter Mark three years ago, must show they have improved their performance.

All applicants for Charter Marks submit paper applications but this can tell only half the story. Mr Weston comments: "Sometimes when you challenge managers with the contrast between what they claim and what you have seen or heard for yourself you see a look of alarm in their eyes. It is vital to get in there with the users of the service to find out what they think — that is the true test of the quality being delivered."

## Quality of the wilds tapped

AVIEMORE VILLAGE and ski resort in the Scottish Highlands is being redeveloped, with plans to include a funicular railway on nearby Cairngorm, thanks to the Highlands and Islands Enterprise Network, a Charter Mark winner today.

ISDN reached the Scottish wilds earlier than expected because the organisation financially assisted the venture.

Funded by the Scottish Office, and based in Inverness, runs schemes with ten local enterprises from Shetland in the north to the Mull of Kintyre in the south, Moray in the east to the Western Isles.

With fewer than ten inhabitants per square kilometre, the area is one of the most sparsely populated in Europe. But the Enterprise Network is aiming to unlock its economic potential, according to Archie MacCallum, its spokesman.

"We are an economic development agency trying to tap in to the potential of undeveloped areas," he says. "One of our main aims is to help growing businesses with grants or loans, marketing and IT advice, and the like."

"We provide premises in some cases, and training for those running the business and their staff. We also operate training programmes for the unemployed."

Since winning its first Charter Mark in 1994, the Network has focused on four sectors which will encourage economic growth in the area: food and drink; manufacturing and production; tourism; knowledge and information technology.

AMANDA LOOSE

Shoppers can sign up for classes between stores. Report by Amanda Loose

## Big idea on mall scale

Visitors to the Gateshead Metro Centre, Europe's largest indoor mall, can shop for careers and even degrees, thanks to two major innovations by the University of Sunderland.

As part of its scheme to encourage greater participation in further education, the university opened Learning World — a centre offering open access courses from adult education programmes to MBAs and postgraduate study — opposite the shopping centre two years ago, in partnership with Gateshead College.

Those seeking advice on careers, further education and guidance on setting up their own business, can visit the university's high street agency, Pathways, run in partnership with the City College, the Training and Enterprise Council and the Careers and Employment Services.

Linda Bird of Sunderland University says: "We emphasise partnerships with other local colleges and organisations as part of our efforts to provide education for the community."

Working with the community and improving access to information and education is one of the main aims of the University of Wolverhampton, the other university winner, just awarded its second Charter Mark.

The university's science park provides an entire building for business starting up on short tenancies, so that they can have access to services from the university.

Students also benefit. Two multimillion-pound learning centres have recently opened on two of the university's five campuses, which, says John White, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, expands the concept of the library.

"The centres develop self-learning skills," he says. "Students now have access to more information from many sources. The top floor of the centres are devoted to open access computers, and include videos which can be used by language students to record programmes from satellite television."

Since winning its first Charter Mark, the university has



City Lit, London's biggest adult education college, has further expanded its scope

introduced a student charter, which outlines what students can expect from the university, as well as what is expected from them.

Wolverhampton has also developed one-stop shops for student registry and administration services. Mr White says: "Being spread over five campuses, students used to have to go to different departments to sort out loans, grants and courses. Now all these services are under one roof."

Simplifying the registration process and improving access to education is among the aims of City Lit, with 22,000 students, London's largest

adult education college, offering programmes for adults with learning difficulties.

Enrolment used to be hectic for the college, and time-consuming for would-be students. But a longer enrolment period has been introduced, and applications can be taken over the telephone, by post or fax. Students without qualifications can gain access to university courses after the college's year-long returning to learning scheme.

Since applying for a Charter Mark, the college has consulted with students, 39 per cent of whom are on benefits, to discover what they think

should be changed, or improved. Now more information is now on offer, including a telephone information line and guidance service. Many students wanted more access to computers, so a centre has been opened.

Margaret Davey, Principal of City Lit, says: "We are also focusing on programmes for those with learning difficulties, as well as for the homeless and unemployed. We have developed a large Centre for Deaf People, which is expanding all the time. And City Lit offers job-specific courses for the unemployed, such as IT qualifications."



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## Top Marks for Hackney

Hackney Council has won more Charter Marks this year than any other organisation in London and the South East.

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- Derby
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- Gloucester
- Hereford
- Ipswich
- Kingston
- Lincoln
- Luton
- Mansfield
- Milton Keynes
- Newcastle
- Northampton
- Northwich
- Peterborough
- Plymouth
- Reading
- Rotherham
- Southampton
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- Stockport
- Swale
- Telford
- Torquay
- Walsley
- Walsworth
- Warrington
- Watlington
- Weymouth
- Wigan
- Wokingham
- Worcester
- Wrexham
- Wyke
- York

In 1997 the Employment  
117 Charter Mark nomin

هكنا من الهم



# How to hold on to your award

For those who have won a Charter Mark, the challenge now becomes how to keep it. The awards are granted for three years but the winners have no proprietary rights. Of the organisations which won in 1994, nine reappplied unsuccessfully (including the Imperial War Museum).

Rather like a licence, winners can only hold on to their Charter Marks provided that they continue to adhere to its criteria. Nothing would damage the status of the Charter Mark more than having failing organisations continuing to vaunt their awards as a stamp of quality.

The most notable example was the British Gas affair a couple of years ago. At a time when public complaints were at their loudest, Charter Mark officials looked at the evidence and decided it was necessary to put the organisation on probation. A time limit was set by which improvement had to be achieved. Just before the probationary period elapsed British Gas surrendered its award and resigned. A voluntary withdrawal was seen to be more dignified than a formal expulsion.

There have been similar developments recently with London Electricity. After a rise in the number of complaints about its service the Charter Unit launched an investigation. The research showed that standards had been falling. After a report back to the independent Charter Mark judges London Electricity was given six months to pull its socks up - it will be looked at again at the end of January. Baroness Perry of Southwark, the judges chairman, said: "It is important that we take action immediately to sort the problem out. London Electricity have their own action plan in hand and I hope that this, together with the further steps that we have agreed with them, will help them to deliver an excellent service to their customers again."

Among the various people

It is all about keeping standards, says Edward Fennell

consulted on London Electricity's performance. Offer (the electricity regulator) and the Electricity Consumers' committee were prominent. The Charter Unit now makes it clear that it wants to hear from regulators, sponsoring government departments, local education authorities and the public if things go wrong with Charter Mark winners.

If you want prestige and recognition for having done a good job then you put yourself

Ofsted, the new Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, and the Training Standards Council, plus the scrutiny of sponsoring departments to the numerous executive agencies which now employ the overwhelming majority of civil servants.

Peter Kilfoyle, the Public Service Minister, has already commented that while he supports the arm's length relationship between ministers and executive agencies, in many cases their terms of reference have been "plucked out of thin air".

Does this mean then that the Cabinet Office's Charter Unit will be assuming a supreme overseeing role over the performance of the public sector? Charter Unit officials reject the notion, arguing that what they are looking for in their criteria are different from the concerns of others. We serve as a counterbalance to the 'league table' approach, they say. Objective performance cannot reflect the impact of local conditions or disadvantages, nor the 'added value' provided by the organisation.

However, the Charter Mark criteria can give recognition to the real achievements of organisations which may be fighting against the odds in an area of deprivation.

Likewise they can be used to strike at the hubris of a monopolistic organisation whose balance sheet may be excellent but whose customer satisfaction level is very low.

There is no doubt that the Charter Marks are coveted. For example, all three housing associations within Anglia Housing Group have won one, and Peter Lewis, chief executive, says "we are exceptionally proud". Hackney council is anxious to spread the news that with four awards it beats the rest of London.

But for those organisations who are celebrating their success today a modicum of sobriety is also required. Having won your award you must stay on your mettle to keep it.



Mike Kinski, Southern Water's chairman, celebrates the Charter Mark Award for his company

on a pedestal, from which you can be dislodged if you start to let standards slip.

Already the Charter Unit has found that the public is willing to write in with complaints if they see a winner behaving badly. Supportive though they normally are when questioned by the assessors, they are prompt to blow the whistle when let down.

This has interesting repercussions for the Charter Unit. The last ten years have seen a massive increase in the amount of external regulation and scrutiny of public services. To the various public utility regulators must be added



Bouquets at Kensington Palace: the gardens are run by the Royal Parks Agency, which has been awarded a second Charter Mark

## Under the world's spotlight

THOUSANDS of mourners made a pilgrimage to Kensington Gardens to pay tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, in September. Amanda Loose writes. One of the eight royal parks that also include St James's, the gardens are run by the Royal Parks Agency, which has been awarded its second Charter Mark.

The agency has introduced several schemes since winning its first Charter Mark in 1994 to make the royal parks more accessible and visitor-friendly. The area in front of Buckingham Palace has been pedestrianised; cycling facilities have been increased, while the Royal Parks Constabulary has set up a special squad to assist tourists.

Community awareness programmes are taking off countrywide, reports Amanda Loose

ROAD SAFETY lessons will never be the same again in Norfolk, thanks to PC Colin Lang and the Reflections Road Show, a mobile disco with a difference. Winner of Charter Marks best staff suggestion award, PC Lang and his roadshow visit eight to 12-year-olds in schools across the county, making road safety fun.

Inspector Bernadette Cartwright of the Norfolk Constabulary believes it is a tremendous idea, which has really taken off. She says: "PC Lang visits each school two weeks before their disco and gives each child a copy of the Junior Highway Code which they must learn, and asks them all to devise a road safety rap. The best three are

## Punching it home with the road safety rap

performed at the roadshow." The constabulary is also launching a drink-driving campaign this Christmas, which includes a small card with space for taxi numbers and so on, and a freephone hotline number which people can ring if they suspect someone over the limit is driving.

Working with school children and concentrating on crime prevention is an essential part of the work of the police force in Hampshire, whose Andover division and its community relations department have been awarded Charter Marks this year.

competition for secondary schools, aims to reduce crime and drug abuse among teenagers. Special officers have also been appointed to improve relations between the police and the gay and lesbian communities.

Community firefighting is also catching on. The West Midlands Fire Service has launched several initiatives to educate residents about fire prevention. The fire safety programme has reduced the number of fire-related deaths from about 50 in 1991, to around 20 in 1996. The service has introduced a special smoke alarm for the elderly and disabled with a switch and battery on the wall instead of the ceiling so they can test them more easily.

## Neighbours could be lifesavers

Villagers in Thorncombe, near Chard, Dorset, are being trained in basic first-aid techniques, in the first stage of a scheme to help ambulance services meet call-out target times in rural areas. Trained volunteers will then be on hand to administer treatment before ambulances arrive, starting, for example, resuscitation in the event of heart

attacks. Amanda Loose writes. The new targets, to be introduced in 2000, will require ambulances to reach 75 out of 100 life-threatening cases within eight minutes - but many services will find that difficult to meet, says John Cape, chief executive of the Dorset Ambulance NHS Trust.

"The chances of survival for cases like heart attacks are improved if we arrive within eight minutes, and start resuscitation. But you don't need to be a paramedic to do this," he says. "If we have a dozen or so volunteers in a village who are on call on a rota system, then they can attend an incident initially, and we can follow up with an ambulance within 19 minutes."

The Charter Mark-winning scheme was launched two months ago in Thorncombe, and has a rigorous selection procedure. So far, 40 volunteers have been enrolled on a basic first-aid course, from which 20 or 30 will go on to a more advanced course. Then 12 or 15 will be chosen to learn resuscitation techniques.

Heart patients also benefit from the innovative programmes run by King's Healthcare NHS Trust's Cardiac Rehabilitation Department in London. Care begins on the ward, and extends to post-hospital exercise classes and leisure activities, offering support to those who have suffered heart attacks or heart surgery.

The benefits of the scheme, set up by cardiac rehabilitation nurse Judith Imich just over four years ago, were shown in a survey of patients six months after they were discharged. About 70 per cent who had taken part in the programme were back at

work, compared with 38 per cent who did not. Nurse Imich says: "People have many misconceptions, and imagine that a heart attack is the end of their life. But the scheme offers them the chance to meet other patients and to take control of their health."

Counselling initially takes place in hospital, where risk factors such as smoking are explained, and information about getting back on their feet at home is supplied. When discharged, local nurses who work with the unit visit the patients, and later they are invited to the Heart Beat Club, which runs exercise classes, health education and relaxation in conjunction with local leisure services.

Social and support groups examine topics such as diet, and Hearts in the Park walking schemes are led by Cardiac Rehabilitation Nurses and park rangers.

Rehabilitation is central to the work of the Southern Birmingham Community Health NHS Trust's Oak Tree Lane Centre. Much of their work is with patients in wheelchairs or with artificial limbs, and involves basic care and counselling, as well as the latest in medical technology.

The centre has been involved with the development of the intelligent leg, made from the same carbon fibre used for Harrier jump jets, with a programmable microchip that allows users to run and walk at different speeds. Voice synthesizers have been used to help patients who are unable to communicate.

But, says Chris Brothwell, deputy general manager, the centre emphasises the importance of the individual and their personal needs. A young

First-aid training attracts village volunteers

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- Heads of the Valley and Caerphilly
- South Devon
- Lewisham
- Jamesdale
- Suffolk
- Wiltshire

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In 1997 the Employment Service also received 117 Charter Mark nominations from the public



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## Capitalisation, week's change

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| Company             | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|---------------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES |       |        |       |      |
| 5.5000 Alcon        | 10.50 | +0.10  | 4.8   | 13.5 |
| 5.5000 Alcon        | 10.50 | +0.10  | 4.8   | 13.5 |
| 5.5000 Alcon        | 10.50 | +0.10  | 4.8   | 13.5 |
| 5.5000 Alcon        | 10.50 | +0.10  | 4.8   | 13.5 |
| 5.5000 Alcon        | 10.50 | +0.10  | 4.8   | 13.5 |

| Company                  | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|--------------------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| BANKS                    |       |        |       |      |
| 15.0000 Bank of Scotland | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 15.0000 Bank of Scotland | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 15.0000 Bank of Scotland | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 15.0000 Bank of Scotland | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 15.0000 Bank of Scotland | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company                | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|------------------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| BREWERIES, PUBS & REST |       |        |       |      |
| 15.0000 BA for the Bar | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 15.0000 BA for the Bar | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 15.0000 BA for the Bar | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 15.0000 BA for the Bar | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 15.0000 BA for the Bar | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company              | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|----------------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| BUILDING & CONSTRUCT |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 B&C           | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 B&C           | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 B&C           | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 B&C           | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 B&C           | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company     | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|-------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| ELECTRICITY |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 E&P  | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 E&P  | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 E&P  | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 E&P  | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 E&P  | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company            | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|--------------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| BUILDING MATERIALS |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 B&M         | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 B&M         | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 B&M         | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 B&M         | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 B&M         | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company     | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|-------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| ENGINEERING |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 E&G  | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 E&G  | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 E&G  | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 E&G  | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 E&G  | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company    | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| CHEMICALS  |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 C&I | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 C&I | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 C&I | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 C&I | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 C&I | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company      | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|--------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| DISTRIBUTORS |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 D&S   | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 D&S   | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 D&S   | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 D&S   | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 D&S   | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company              | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|----------------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| ENGINEERING VEHICLES |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 E&V           | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 E&V           | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 E&V           | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 E&V           | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 E&V           | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company            | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|--------------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| FOOD MANUFACTURERS |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 F&M         | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 F&M         | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 F&M         | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 F&M         | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 F&M         | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company          | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|------------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| LEISURE & HOTELS |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 L&H       | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 L&H       | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 L&H       | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 L&H       | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 L&H       | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company    | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| MINING     |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 M&I | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 M&I | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 M&I | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 M&I | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 M&I | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company    | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| HEALTHCARE |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 H&C | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 H&C | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 H&C | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 H&C | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 H&C | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company         | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|-----------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| HOUSEHOLD GOODS |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 H&G      | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 H&G      | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 H&G      | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 H&G      | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 H&G      | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company    | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| INSURANCE  |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 I&S | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 I&S | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 I&S | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 I&S | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 I&S | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company           | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|-------------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| INVESTMENT TRUSTS |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 I&T        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 I&T        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 I&T        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 I&T        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 I&T        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company    | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| MEDIA      |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 M&A | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 M&A | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 M&A | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 M&A | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 M&A | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company         | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|-----------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| PHARMACEUTICALS |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 P&D      | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 P&D      | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 P&D      | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 P&D      | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 P&D      | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company          | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|------------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| PRINTING & PAPER |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 P&P       | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 P&P       | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 P&P       | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 P&P       | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 P&P       | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company           | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|-------------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| RETAILERS GENERAL |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 R&G        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&G        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&G        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&G        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&G        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company        | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|----------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| RETAILERS FOOD |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 R&F     | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&F     | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&F     | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&F     | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&F     | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company           | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|-------------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| RETAILERS GENERAL |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 R&G        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&G        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&G        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&G        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&G        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company        | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|----------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| RETAILERS FOOD |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 R&F     | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&F     | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&F     | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&F     | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&F     | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company           | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|-------------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| RETAILERS GENERAL |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 R&G        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&G        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&G        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
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| 5.0000 R&G        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company        | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|----------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| RETAILERS FOOD |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 R&F     | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&F     | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&F     | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&F     | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&F     | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company           | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|-------------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| RETAILERS GENERAL |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 R&G        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&G        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&G        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&G        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 R&G        | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

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| 5.0000 S&5             | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 S&5             | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 S&5             | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 S&5             | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 S&5             | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company               | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|-----------------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| LONGS (over 15 years) |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 L&15           | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 L&15           | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 L&15           | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 L&15           | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 L&15           | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

| Company    | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| UNDATED    |       |        |       |      |
| 5.0000 U&0 | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 U&0 | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 U&0 | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 U&0 | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |
| 5.0000 U&0 | 11.00 | +0.10  | 5.5   | 12.5 |

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| 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 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| 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 | 15 28 23 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## THE FACTS

Market capitalisation: £5.8 billion  
 Total premium income in nine months to September 1997: £6.25 billion  
 Operating profit before tax (nine months): £358 million  
 Shareholders' funds: £4 billion  
 Activities: life and general insurance  
 Subsidiary company locations: Australia, Belgium, Bermuda, Canada, Cyprus, France, Greece, Indonesia, Italy, Luxembourg, Malaysia, The Netherlands, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, US, and Zimbabwe.

## THE BOARD

Nicholas Baring, 63, was appointed chairman in 1980. He joined the board of CU in 1989, after the merger with Northern Assurance Company, having been a director of that company since 1968.  
 John Carter, 59, chief executive since 1984, joined CU in 1961. He was appointed UK general manager in 1984 and joined the board in 1987.  
 Peter Foster, 50, joined CU in 1983. He was appointed general manager of finance in 1981 and has been finance director since he joined the board in 1984. He is Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.  
 Other board members include: Tony Wyand, executive director, 53, who has worked for CU since 1971; Frances Heaton, independent director, 52, who has been a board member for three years and is a director of the Bank of England; Sir Tim Lankaster, independent director, 54, appointed to the board in 1986; Sir John B. Smith, independent director, 53, an emeritus professor and chairman of an Advisory Board at the Free University of Amsterdam; Derek Stevens, independent director of the board for two years, and director and chief financial officer of British Airways; Andre Villeneuve, 53, executive director of Reuters Holdings.

The international life and general insurer that we know today as CU has been formed over more than a century as a result of a series of mergers and takeovers and despite losses sustained in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, the sinking of the Titanic, two world wars and the Bishopsgate bomb in 1993.

Today, however, the fate of the £4 billion insurer is closely linked to the ups and downs of the London stock market. The trouble with insurance companies is that they act as a proxy for the market.

When times are good, the value of their shareholders' funds rises strongly. When the market takes a tumble, as it has over the autumn, the value of invested funds falls and the City's love affair with the sector goes sour.

Commercial Union's admission that in just six weeks the volatility of the London market wiped £400 million from shareholders' funds of £4.4 billion meant the City marked the share price sharply down.

This seems rather harsh for an insurer that has considerable global interests and earns 45 per cent of its total premium income from life business.

However, CU's shares have lagged the rest of the composite insurance sector this year, mainly because of the perception that its high proportion of overseas profits leaves it vulnerable to the strong pound. Almost half of CU's life profits this year have come from The Netherlands, with the UK and France the next biggest markets. The composite has a comparatively small life operation in the US.

By contrast, general insurance profits are more evenly spread across Europe, North America and the rest of the world. France is currently the largest contributor to profits, eclipsing the UK result which this year has been hit by difficult trading conditions.

In 1994 CU made the biggest investment in France by any UK company in any sector by buying Groupe Victoire with its Abbeville portfolio of businesses. This acquisition doubled staff numbers in the French operation. On the life side, though, growth in France has been slow over the past couple of years because of the uncertainty over the tax regime and fears about the economy.

On the general insurance side, a lot of French companies expanded quickly, and as a result profitability in the market suffered. The ongoing consolidation — for example, the recent deal between Axa and UAP — may help to take some of this excess capacity out of the

## CORPORATE PROFILE: CU



Disasters such as the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, the sinking of the Titanic and the Bishopsgate bomb have all taken their toll of Commercial Union. John Carter, above left, and Tony Wyand after the company's investment in Groupe Victoire, and Nicholas Baring, the chairman, below



Disasters such as the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, the sinking of the Titanic and the Bishopsgate bomb have all taken their toll of Commercial Union. John Carter, above left, and Tony Wyand after the company's investment in Groupe Victoire, and Nicholas Baring, the chairman, below

market, but the market is still competitive.

The company grew rapidly, setting up representatives in Canada, India, the US and Australia. By the turn of the century CU had subsidiary companies in the US, Australia and Singapore. In 1900 it bought the Palatine Insurance Company, which introduced accident insurance to CU and effectively made it a composite.

CU celebrated its official 125th anniversary in 1986. The company was founded in 1861 — the year that a fire devastated a group of warehouses in Tooley Street, near London Bridge.

The claims that followed this event caused London's fire insurance companies to increase their premium rates dramatically, which in turn led to a group of merchants setting up their own insurance company, which became Commercial Union.

The first chairman was the dynamic Henry Peek. Though only in his thirties, he had considerable business experience and remained on the board until the late 1890s, exerting a profound influence over the development of the company.

CU's first offices were in Gracechurch Street in the City of London, but it soon outgrew these and moved to Cornhill. By this time CU was writing life and marine business, and it shortly made

its first venture into the international market.

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One section of CU dates back to 1696. The Hand-in-Hand Fire and Life Insurance Society was the oldest existing insurance company in the world, but at the start of this century accepted CU's merger proposal.

CU made further acquisitions after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Unlike other companies, it was financially strong enough to pay claims in full. It then acquired a number

of the ailing companies including the Union Assurance Society, founded in 1714, bought soon after the earthquake.

Accident insurance was added to the group's overseas business in 1910 with the acquisition of the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation. CU began to expand its marine department in the early 20th century, and was involved with the Titanic. Despite this setback it achieved a profit of £100,000 in 1912.

During the recession that followed the First World War Commercial Union suffered its first fall in income since 1908. The 1930s were also difficult for all businesses and were marked by a period of consolidation. By 1939 CU's total assets had risen to £70 million.

Rapid economic recovery after the Second World War was beneficial to CU and the base of its US fire and liability business was broadened by the purchase of the North British and Mercantile Assurance Company in 1959 and the Northern and Employers Group in 1968.

## WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"CU is repositioning its business away from lower-quality cyclical UK non-life earnings towards high-quality, higher-growth overseas life earnings. In the long term this should have a beneficial effect on the company's prospects and valuation." *Paul Goodhand, NatWest Securities*

"The group has had a clear strategy of building up its European life operation and reducing the importance of general insurance, particularly in the US. Unfortunately, the benefits to both profit and net asset value growth have been curtailed by the strength of sterling. It has also been disadvantaged by having a relatively low exposure to equities. However, in the longer term we believe shareholders should reap the benefits of its long-term strategy." *Steven Bird, Merrill Lynch*

## Fitness First in joint venture

By FRASER NELSON

FITNESS FIRST, the leisure chain listed on the Alternative Investment Market, is to expand its network of health clubs through a £10 million joint venture with Berkeley, the upmarket housebuilder.

The company, which already runs 14 health clubs, will announce today that it

will open between ten to 15 new sites through the deal. Berkeley is to invest £1 million in Fitness First shares, buying 533,000 at Friday's market price of 187p. It will own a 19 per cent stake in the company after the deal.

Both Fitness First and Berkeley are putting an initial

£2 million into the joint venture, to be called FFB. It will borrow a further £6 million from banks.

Michael Balfour, managing director of Fitness First, said the FFB expansion was in addition to existing plans to convert anything from disused supermarkets to Scout huts.

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Notice of Interest Rates for Private and Business Clients effective from 1 December 1997

|                                                                   | gross interest rate p.a. | gross compounded annual rate (C.A.R.) |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Current and Deposit Accounts for Private Clients                  |                          |                                       |
| Current Account with Cash Management Option* and Reserve Account* |                          |                                       |
| £100,000+                                                         | 5.375%                   | 5.398%                                |
| £50,000-£99,999                                                   | 5.05%                    | 5.126%                                |
| £20,000-£49,999                                                   | 4.25%                    | 4.272%                                |
| £5,000-£19,999                                                    | 3.75%                    | 3.792%                                |

|               |        |       |
|---------------|--------|-------|
| TESSA*        | 7.25%  | 7.45% |
| Chariv TESSA* | 6.525% | 6.69% |

|                                                   |        |        |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Deposit Accounts for Private and Business Clients |        |        |
| Three Month Reserve Account*                      |        |        |
| £50,000+                                          | 6.625% | 6.693% |
| £25,000-£49,999                                   | 5.50%  | 5.56%  |
| £10,000-£24,999                                   | 5.00%  | 5.08%  |
| 7 Day Notice Deposit Account*                     | 1.00%  | 1.00%  |

|                                                      |       |       |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Deposit Accounts for Business Clients                |       |       |
| Reserve Accounts for Businesses/Charities/Societies* |       |       |
| £250,000-£1 million                                  | 4.65% | 4.71% |
| £100,000-£249,999                                    | 4.40% | 4.56% |
| £25,000-£99,999                                      | 4.20% | 4.26% |
| £10,000-£24,999                                      | 3.60% | 3.64% |

\*Interest is paid quarterly. Interest is paid half-yearly. Interest is paid only on the portion of the cleared balance which exceeds £5,000.

• Interest is payable on Reserve Account balances below the minimum level at a gross rate of 1% p.a. (Gross C.A.R. 1%).

• Interest will be paid after deducting tax (where applicable) at the prescribed rate.

• The gross compounded annual rate is the rate where gross interest payments are retained on the account during the year.

• We are also able to place sterling and other currencies in the Money Markets. All rates are subject to variation.

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|------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|-------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| BALANCE                                  | GROSS* PA | NET† PA | BALANCE                                   | GROSS* PA | NET† PA |
| £100,000+                                | 7.40%     | 5.92%   | £100,000+                                 | 7.16%     | 5.73%   |
| £50,000+                                 | 7.05%     | 5.64%   | £50,000+                                  | 6.83%     | 5.47%   |
| £25,000+                                 | 6.85%     | 5.48%   | £25,000+                                  | 6.64%     | 5.32%   |
| £10,000+                                 | 6.80%     | 5.44%   | £10,000+                                  | 6.60%     | 5.28%   |
| £5,000+                                  | 5.95%     | 4.76%   | £5,000+                                   | 5.79%     | 4.63%   |

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With effect from 1st December 1997

|                |                     | Gross paid annually | Gross paid monthly |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Sterling       |                     |                     |                    |
| International  | £500 - £9,999       | 6.20%               | 6.03%              |
| Gross Account* | £10,000 - £39,999   | 6.70%               | 6.50%              |
|                | £40,000 - £99,999   | 7.15%               | 6.93%              |
|                | £100,000 - £249,999 | 7.40%               | 7.16%              |
|                | £250,000 - £399,999 | 7.55%               | 7.30%              |
|                | £400,000+           | 7.70%               | 7.44%              |

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# Payout boost likely as Stagecoach accelerates



Stagecoach managing director Ann Gloag and Brian Souter are expected to impress

**STAGECOACH:** Britain's biggest transport operator, headed by Brian Souter, chairman, has had its toe down to the floor on the acquisition front during the past couple of years and it now seems headed for a period of consolidation.

Even so, half-year figures out on Tuesday should still make impressive reading, with NatWest Markets forecasting a rise in pre-tax profits from £35.5 million to £76.4 million, an increase of 115 per cent. Earnings will be up from 13.6p to 22.3p.

Solid progress is expected across all four divisions, with the UK bus side enjoying a gradual improvement in margins despite some costs attributed to the "bus wars" in Strathclyde.

Overseas buses should be showing signs of improvement, while South West Trains has now fully recovered from operational problems at the start of the year.

Porterbrook, the train leasing business, has enjoyed solid margin growth, with maintenance costs reduced. The payout is expected to leap 40 per cent from 3p to 4.2p.

**GEC:** Speculation was rife last week about a possible successor to Lord Prior as chairman.

The hot money is riding on Sir Roger Hurn, currently heading Smiths Industries. Meanwhile, brokers will be pressing Lord Simpson, chief executive, on his plans for the future.

Will the group concentrate on the defence industry and will it begin to spin off its interests in the various joint ventures? These are questions that the City feels should be urgently addressed.

Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, expects half-year figures on Thursday to show pre-tax profits growing from £421 million to £450 million, producing earnings of 10.1p per share against 9.5p last time.

The payout will grow from 3.3p to 3.5p.

**IMPERIAL GROUP:** NatWest Markets, the broker, is clearly hoping for some positive news from the tobacco producer when it unveils its first set of full-year figures since demerging. Last week it raised its pre-tax profits forecast by £6 million to £312 million, giving earnings of 40.1p per share. That compares with the £288 million achieved last year and the £310 million looked for by other brokers.

Imperial continues to lose market share in this country and without the benefits of the

Rizla acquisition the profits contribution from the UK was likely to have been static at around £314 million.

There will be a first-time payout of 21.5p.

**S&N:** There should be something for Scottish & Newcastle shareholders to raise a glass to when Britain's biggest brewer delivers half-year figures today, Pamzure Gordon, the broker, is looking for pre-tax profits to come in at around £220 million, compared with £198 million last time. The market range is between £215 million and £227 million.

Another solid performance is expected from the brewing operations. The group now commands around 30 per cent of the beer market, accounting for just over 40 per cent of group profits. A similar healthy performance is anticipated by its managed pub chain. But the leisure division, including Centre Parcs, will have struggled to make headway. The dull state of the north European economy, combined with currency factors, will have continued to take their toll. The pound appreciated by around 14 per

cent against the Dutch guilder. The payout is expected to grow from 7.21p to 7.9p.

**BASS:** Brokers are looking for good news from the group when it unveils full-year figures on Wednesday. Strong profits growth, news of disposals and even the possibility of a share buyback have all been mentioned.

Pre-tax profits will come in at around the £725 million to £735 million level, compared with £674 million last time, while earnings should grow 9 per cent to 55.3p per share.

Pubs remain the biggest contributor to profits and brewing will be up around 7 per cent. But brokers are braced for a net downturn in hotels. The best performance will be reserved for leisure.

**CARLTON:** Another strong performance from the film production division of Carlton Communications should provide the main impetus to full-year figures on Wednesday. Pre-tax profit forecasts range from £325 million to £337 million, with earnings 12 per cent higher at 31.8p per share. But the 10 per cent improvement from film production will be offset to a certain extent by a decline in video duplication. Growth in television,

which includes LWT, is likely to have slowed to 10 per cent from 19 per cent in the first six months. A dividend of 12.4p is expected compared with 11.1p last time.

**GRANDMET:** The last set of full-year figures to be recorded by Grand Metropolitan before the merger with Guinness are published on Wednesday.

They may fail to impress at first glance. Pre-tax profits are expected to come in virtually unchanged at £969 million, with earnings stagnating at 31p. This is largely due to the negative impact of currency translations and the disposal of its European food interests. After stripping that out, the rest of the operations are firing on all cylinders. The payout will be 17.2p per share, compared with 15.9p last time.

**GUS:** First-half results at Great Universal Stores on Thursday will be clouded by an array of currency losses and one-offs. Pre-tax profits will come in at between £240 million and £245 million compared with £226.7 million last time, while earnings will grow from 14.9p to 15.9p per share. The payout should grow 9 per cent to 6p.

MICHAEL CLARK

Company d  
faces fight  
Eagle inve

agecoach line rallies

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### All eyes on the Bank's rate setters

THE UK economic week will be dominated by the monthly meeting of the Bank of England monetary policy committee, ending on Thursday.

Eddie George last week told the Commons Treasury Select Committee that he did not feel that South-East Asia's problems were causing sufficient pain in the UK to preclude further rate rises. However, data since last month's rate rise has been mixed and has probably eased pressure on the Bank for a pre-Christmas rise, although the market consensus is that the Bank will move again early next year.

UK data this week will provide only limited clues as to how the economy did in November. On Monday, the narrow money supply data is expected to show a small increase, with MMS International, the forecasting company, predicting a tick up in the annual rate, from 6.4 per cent to 6.8 per cent. There should also be a bounce back in October's consumer credit figures, also due on Monday, with credit rising from £733 million to £1.2 billion in line with stronger retail sales.

The CBI distributive trades survey for November, out on Wednesday, will give the first indication of whether retailers are in for a bumper Christmas.

Abroad, Asian market turmoil will remain the centre of attention. Japan's Government is not expected to complete its banking sector salvage package until next week, but any news about it will be eagerly devoured by the markets.

In the US, jobs data will dominate. Growth in non-farm payrolls is tipped to slow from 284,000 to 215,000 in November.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

### RESULTS

#### TODAY

Interim: AEA Technology, Acl, AIT Group, Allen, Asset Management Investment, Bath Press Group, Compo Holdings, Elze Tinsley, Jennings Brothers, Piren Rail, Scottish & Newcastle, James Smith Estates, Washburn, Finsley, Brodie Industrial Holdings, Dairon Electronics, Guinness Flight Extra Inc, Imperial Tobacco Group, SBS Group, Waverley Mining, H Young. Economic statistics: October consumer credit, October final M4 money supply.

#### TOMORROW

Interim: Alba, Allied Colloids Group, Ariesch International, Columbus Group, East Surrey Holdings, Field Group, Hazelwood Foods, Marydown, Morrison Construction, Norbert, OMI International, Siebe, Stagecoach, Videologic Group, Finsley, Claxton Group, Chrysalis Group, Edridge, Pope, Get Group, Sanderson Electronics, Scottish Radio Holdings, Economic statistics: Halifax November house price survey.

#### WEDNESDAY

Interim: BTG, Eya Group, Gibbon Group, Samuel Heath, Orbis, Oullgill, Finsley, Bass, Bick, Carlton Communications, Heal's, MEPC. Economic statistics: Bank of England two-day MPC meeting begins.

#### THURSDAY

Interim: Abbeycrest, Castings, Expro International, GEC, GUS, Hanson, M. Holdings, TIG, Finsley, Avon Rubber, Denby Group, Dewhurst, Grand Metropolitan, Greenore Group, Hewlin, Skids. Economic statistics: October housing starts, September new car registrations, CBI distributive trades survey, Bank of England announcement on interest rates.

#### FRIDAY

Interim: Courts, Greene King, Finsley, Landround, Phytopharm. Economic statistics: Q3 construction output.

The Sunday Times: Bay Babcock, Atlantic Telecom, Skids, Britax International. The Sunday Telegraph: Bay Anglo Pacific Resources, Hold Morrison Construction, EMI. The Observer: Bay BICC, ED&F Man, Mail On Sunday: Bay Reckitt & Colman. The Express on Sunday: Bay Lonrho.

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Arjo Wiggins

مكتبة الأمل



# Company doctor faces fight with Eagle investors

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

DAVID JAMES, the company doctor currently looking for a buyer for Sears's shoe business, faces one final battle today before he can bring down the curtain on Eagle Trust, the hapless former conglomerate that he plans to place in voluntary liquidation.

At Eagle Trust's extraordinary meeting this afternoon in London, private shareholders are planning to resist Mr James, who has been the company's chairman and

chief executive since the scale of its problems became clear in 1989.

John Ferriday, Eagle Trust's former chairman, was found to have stolen £13 million from the company in the 1987 stock market crash, for which he received a six-year prison sentence. The theft and other dealings left Eagle under a mountain of debt.

What has incensed some shareholders is Mr James's flotation of Eagle Trust's last

asset, Visual Action Holdings, which they claim was grossly undervalued. Visual Action, the former hirer of film equipment known as Samuelson, joined the market at 185p in March 1996, valuing it at £85 million. This is less than two thirds of the 295p a share paid for Visual Action last month when Caribian International, a US rival, made a recommended takeover offer worth £148 million.

Eagle Trust's 31,000 small shareholders were prevented from buying Visual Action shares in the flotation although they later received 1p for every Eagle Trust share held.

The investors claim Mr James has consistently neglected their interests in favour of three banks — Standard Chartered, Lloyds and NatWest — that bailed out the company when it was hit by financial crisis.

Mr James said: "My first responsibility has been to discharge all the obligations to all the creditors. The banks are secured creditors, so they come first."

## Whitbread to double TGI Friday's UK outlets

BY DOMINIC WALSH

WHITBREAD is planning to double the size of TGI Friday's, its American restaurant chain over the next four years with the aim of creating a £100 million business.

Mike Johnson, managing director of the Friday's brand, said the aim was to grow to 50 outlets by 2001, while attempting to revive sales growth at the existing 24 restaurants.

Mr Johnson said the five sites in the pipeline for 1998 — Edinburgh, Guildford, Bristol, Crawley and Chester — would have around 200 seats. He estimated the total cost per unit at about £1.1 million.

The franchise agreement with the brand's owner, Carlson Hospitality, extends to the Irish Republic and Mr Johnson said he was actively seeking a site in the centre of Dublin. However, he was cautious over a move onto the Continent where Whitbread has had mixed fortunes. "We haven't discounted it, but at the moment there are plenty of opportunities in the UK."

The Friday's menus are also being revamped after a slowdown in like-for-like sales growth. The menus will reflect the growth of the family market and the growing sophistication of diners.



Mike Johnson, managing director of TGI Friday's, wants to open 50 new restaurants

## Partner deals 'deliver results'

Partnership between management and unions is widespread in British industry and is delivering direct bottom-line benefits, a report by Industrial Relations Services, the employment analyst, says.

In the survey of 50 key organisations IRS found 44 using a partnership approach — involving employees in drawing up and executing company policies, but with management retaining the right to manage.

Half of the partnership organisations said they had obtained measurable bottom-line improvements. SmithKline Beecham said it had saved £7.2 million from implementing business process re-engineering and Blue Circle, the cement group, saved £2 million a year on delivery fleet costs.

## Big interest in digital TV

A report today by The Survey Shop for Pace Micro Technology, the digital television receiver equipment maker, found that 41 per cent of 1,000 people surveyed would value home banking via the TV set and 36 per cent were interested in home shopping.

Forty-eight per cent said they would be happy to buy holidays over the Internet, 41 per cent music, and 36 per cent videos.

## ScS to float

ScS Upholstery, the regional furniture retailer founded more than 100 years ago, plans to join the stock market next week. The placing is sponsored by Singer & Friedland with Collins Stewart acting as broker to the issue.

## Granada sale

Granada, the media and leisure group, is set to announce the sale for about £82 million of Côté France, its French motorway services chain, to Autogrill, the Italian restaurant group.

## Bad boss line

The TUC today urges employers to expose "bad bosses" by reporting them to a confidential telephone hotline service.

## Portfolio

Two winners shared The Times Portfolio prize on Saturday. They are A. Cook, of Cottesmore, Rutland, and L. Marten, of Leeds. Both receive £500.

## Stagecoach line rallies

BY FRASER NELSON

STAGECOACH has turned South West Trains, its London Waterloo commuter line, into the fourth most punctual service in Britain.

The company, which was fined £1 million for delays last winter, has reduced the number of late trains by an average 40 per cent at the halfway stage. At the same time its Island Line franchise on the Isle of Wight saw the most

rapid deterioration in punctuality with one in every 20 of its services running late.

Stagecoach, which reports half-year results tomorrow, has been fined £7,200 for failings in Island Line, but has been awarded a £151,000 bonus for the improvement at South West Trains. It is expected to return £69 million of pre-tax profit, after a £32.5 million subsidy.

## Walker Wingsail's chief survives shareholder coup

BY PAUL DURMAN

AFTER seeing off an attempt to oust its chairman at the weekend, Walker Wingsail Systems, the Plymouth firm that makes boats with rigid sails, is planning to float on the Alternative Investment Market in a couple of years.

By then, John Walker will have stepped aside as chairman to spend more time sailing. Mr Walker, 60, has spent much of the last 30 years — and £12 million — on his

idea for yachts controlled by aircraft-style wings.

About 400 shareholders attended Walker Wingsail's annual meeting on Saturday. But a poll on adopting the firm's accounts — effectively a vote of confidence — was not needed because holders of 25 million shares had cast proxies backing Mr Walker, three times the 8.4 million votes against. Mr Walker said: "This is a total vindication."

The defeated dissident group, which had criticised Mr Walker's repeated failure to keep to forecasts, believes the firm has responded to pressure with the appointment of Gilbert Cole as managing director, and John Edge as production director.

Mr Walker enjoys a devoted following among his 6,700 shareholders, who, despite setbacks, invest great faith in the wingsail technology.

## Merrydown likely to stay flat

BY DOMINIC WALSH

MERRYDOWN, the embattled cidermaker, is expected to produce another set of disappointing results tomorrow, putting further pressure on Richard Purdy to step down as chairman.

The past couple of years have seen something of a rollercoaster ride for shareholders as Two Dogs alcoholic lemonade, initially hailed as a

huge moneyspinner, turned into a disaster as competitors flooded the market. The shares, currently at a year's low of 50p, have more than halved in the past year.

In July, on the back of a drop in full-year pre-tax profits from £2.03 million to just £821,000, Mr Purdy promised to streamline the board, since when Alan Rutherford,

sales and marketing director, and Stephen Burke, finance director, have moved on.

In a bid to halt declining sales of Two Dogs, distribution of the brand has been handed to Scottish & Newcastle, but there are now fears that this year's difficult apple harvest may have forced the company to buy apple concentrate at inflated prices.

## TOURIST RATES

| Bank            | Bank    |
|-----------------|---------|
| Buy             | Sell    |
| Australia \$    | 2.56    |
| Austria Sch     | 21.88   |
| Belgium F       | 64.32   |
| Canada \$       | 2.514   |
| Cyprus Cyp£     | 0.911   |
| Denmark Kr      | 11.87   |
| Finland Mk      | 9.51    |
| France F        | 10.38   |
| Germany Dm      | 3.13    |
| Greece Dr       | 491     |
| Hong Kong \$    | 15.81   |
| Iceland         | 121     |
| Ireland P       | 1.19    |
| Israel Shk      | 6.33    |
| Italy Lira      | 3079    |
| Japan Yen       | 229.23  |
| Malta           | 0.685   |
| Netherlands Gld | 3.530   |
| New Zealand \$  | 2.88    |
| Norway Kr       | 12.68   |
| Portugal Esc    | 315.03  |
| S Africa Rd     | 8.88    |
| Spain Ptas      | 281.79  |
| Sweden Kr       | 13.78   |
| Switzerland Fr  | 2.55    |
| Turkey Lira     | 333.457 |
| USA \$          | 1.785   |

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

## CHANGE ON WEEK

## THE POUND

US dollar 1.6845 (-0.0102)  
German mark 2.9711 (+0.0377)  
Exchange index 105.0 (+0.9)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 3135.6 (+42.1)  
FTSE 100 4831.8 (+90.0)  
New York Dow Jones 7823.13 (+250.65)  
Tokyo Nikkei Avg 16636.26 (+1553.74)

## Revised Interest Rates

| Account                                                                     | Amount Invested       | Gross %                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Novus Access Offshore                                                       | £ 150,000 - £ 500,000 | 7.25                     |
| Monthly income payable with no rate reduction on balances of £5,000 or more | £ 50,000 - £ 149,999  | 7.05                     |
|                                                                             | £ 25,000 - £ 49,999   | 6.85                     |
|                                                                             | £ 10,000 - £ 24,999   | 6.60                     |
|                                                                             | £ 5,000 - £ 9,999     | 6.40                     |
|                                                                             | £ 1,000 - £ 4,999     | 6.20                     |
| Novus 45 Offshore                                                           | £ 250,000 - £ 500,000 | 7.60                     |
| 45 days notice or 45 days less of interest                                  | £ 150,000 - £ 249,999 | 7.50                     |
|                                                                             | £ 50,000 - £ 149,999  | 7.30                     |
|                                                                             | £ 25,000 - £ 49,999   | 7.10                     |
|                                                                             | £ 10,000 - £ 24,999   | 6.90                     |
|                                                                             | £ 1,000 - £ 9,999     | 6.70                     |
| Novus 120 Offshore                                                          | £ 250,000 - £ 500,000 | 8.05                     |
| 120 days notice or 120 days less of interest                                | £ 150,000 - £ 249,999 | 7.85                     |
|                                                                             | £ 50,000 - £ 149,999  | 7.65                     |
| Novus Star Offshore                                                         | £ 5,000 - £ 500,000   | Annual 7.70 Monthly 7.45 |

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There are two reliable indicators of the top of the housing market. The first is when ordinary middle class couples talk of having to buy a property for their children for fear of them never being able to afford to buy one themselves. The second is the appearance of the comet-like story that a former broom cupboard in Knightsbridge has just fetched a good price as a mini studio flat.

The first indicator has been flashing amber for most of this year. Last week the broom cupboard story came round again. For me, that settled it. Next year, the rate of house price inflation is going to be lower. And in central London we may see absolute price falls.

You do not have to believe in my broom cupboard indicator to reach this conclusion. There is beginning to be evidence of a changing trend in the various official measures of house prices. The Nationwide index shows house price inflation having fallen from 12.9 per cent to 11.6 per cent, while the Halifax shows it at 5.7 per cent, down from 7 per cent.

Moreover, an easing off is understandable. After all, there have now been four rises in interest rates since the election and it looks as though there may be more. Meanwhile, bit by bit, the value of mortgage interest relief has been whittled down. At the top end of the

## House prices face the broom cupboard test



ROGER BOOTLE

market, of course, particularly in central London, mortgage rates are hardly the issue. But there is something else that is turning the market there, namely the apparent change of trend in equity markets — and their down-right collapse in the Far East. Given that central London prices have risen strongly in sterling terms, when translated into foreign currency terms through the super-strong pound, they have shot up. Speculative buying of central London property from the Far East could now turn to selling.

Yet if we really have seen the top of this housing cycle, though understandable, this is remarkable. In the past, the peak of the cycle has been at much higher rates of price rise. At the top of the early 1970s boom, house prices were rising at an annual rate of 40 per cent. At the end of that decade, and again at the end of the 1980s, house price inflation topped out at 30 per cent. By these standards, recent rates look pretty feeble.

Moreover, according to the prevailing values of the last few decades, houses currently look cheap — as many an

estate agent will tell you. After all, the ratio of average house prices to average earnings has been just under 3.5 over 40 years. It now stands at less than 3. Furthermore, houses are not only cheap, but relatively affordable. Even after recent rises, mortgage rates are still only 8½ per cent, a rate that would have seemed attractively low not that many years ago.

Yet experience should teach us to beware estate agents bearing gifts. When you compare mortgage rates now with those in the 1970s, you are comparing apples with pears. It is inflation that makes the difference. Rampant inflation

sharply reduces the real cost of borrowing.

In 1975, inflation reached 27 per cent. In 1980 it peaked at over 20 per cent, and at the end of the Lawson boom exceeded 10 per cent. At the latest count, it stands at 3.7 per cent on the headline measure, 2.8 per cent underlying. Meanwhile, average earnings are rising at 4.25 per cent — hardly enough to overwhelm a modest mortgage in one fell swoop.

The change in the inflation environment also undermines the argument that houses are cheap in relation to earnings. For why did people value houses, on average, at 3.5 times their gross earnings? Part of the answer is the development of an investment culture in the housing market.

Largely as a result of the sustained rise in house prices, people spoke of "getting a foot on the ladder" or "jumping on the bandwagon". Accordingly, people bought earlier, bought more, bought bigger, and hung on to more property than they would have done without the belief that "you can't lose in property". Many thought of

continually rising house prices as an essential part of economic life. Some of the beneficiaries even saw it as part of their birthright — an officially sanctioned and tax-subsidised way of making money, supposedly without risk. If you like, it was the ordinary man's Lloyd's. That is why the early 1990s collapse gave rise to widespread bewilderment and anger.

For many people, seeing large falls in house prices in the early 1990s was an appalling shock. That experience may finally have put paid to the idea that houses are a risk-free investment, but still the bulls — and the estate agents — cling on to the idea that, come the upswing of the cycle, it would be back to the good old days. If my reading of the broom cupboard indicator is correct, they will soon be disabused.

Don't get me wrong. Given that people will almost certainly want to spend more on housing as they get richer, and given the shortage of building land in Britain, house prices will probably rise over time — even in real terms. Owner-occupation remains attractive. But people should expect nothing like the booms that we have had three times in the last 25 years. And with continued low inflation, in the downswings it will be normal for house prices to fall. The new economic era extends even to the Englishman's castle.

## Beckett must be bold in reforming the regulators

Utilities law needs action now to avoid predictable problems, says Dieter Helm



Stephen Littlechild has made a request for legislation



Regulators Claire Spottiswoode and Don Cruickshank

After Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, announced the Department of Trade and Industry's review of utility regulation in the summer, share prices rose. Investors and political commentators concluded that the review spelt the death-knell of Labour's more radical reform plans. The review would buy time, and, by the time the manifesto commitments could be quietly buried. A Green Paper by Christmas and then more consultations, with only the distant prospect of legislation, appeared to many to be the strategy.

Such complacency, if it materialised, would have its costs. Events, not policy, will end up

driving the agenda. With the Green Paper already delayed until January or February, the pressures are beginning to mount. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission report into the bid by PacificCorp for the Energy Group sits on Mrs Beckett's desk. Stephen Little-

child has asked for legislation to split the regional electricity companies' distribution and supply businesses, while the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions is pressing for environmental duties to be placed on regulators. Pressure is also mounting to do something for poorer customers.

There is also the predictable coal crisis, raising issues about licensing policy, the use of levies to support research and development and, more generally, the role of government in determining the final mix.

Further out, Mrs Beckett will have to decide what to do about the mounting problems with the introduction of competition into the electricity market, which Ministers have (perhaps foolishly) taken responsibility for. Appointments also need to be made, and candidates will no doubt want to know what it is that they will be supposed to regulate. A successor is needed for Don Cruickshank at Ofel (and a response to his demand for an Ofcom to regulate communications more generally). Claire Spottiswoode's term of office ends in November 1998, and Professor Littlechild's in 1999.

Finally, there is the fact that at around the year 2000 most

of the utilities will have their prices set again. For water and for electricity distribution, this could either be a price cut or increased environmental and social expenditure — money in consumers' pockets or what would otherwise be public expenditure goodies, all in time for the next general election. It would be surprising if politicians would want to leave such sensitive issues solely in the hands of the regulators when an election is beckoning.

The political choice is stark: either address the regulatory framework now, and introduce the necessary legislation in the autumn of 1998, or let events wash over the DTI. In addition to political considerations, the public-interest merits of the former are considerable: Ofel and Ofgas can be merged, the environmental/social/economic trade-off can be set, and the relationship

between policy and implementation can be sorted out.

Failure to act now risks a re-run of the dispute over prison policy during the Conservative Government — the Derek Lewis affair that so upset Michael Howard's term as Home Secretary: politicians are in charge of policy until it goes wrong, and then it is the regulators' fault. It is hard to see Mrs Beckett and John Birt, the Industry, Energy and Science Minister, emerging unscathed from events that can already be predicted and which raise major public policy issues, unless a proactive position is taken.

It is not just politics at stake. Failure to define the rules has left the City uncertain, and the inevitable and necessary restructuring of the utility industry inherited from 40 years in the public sector has been put on hold. Most worrying of all, the regulatory uncertainty has left the UK with one of the highest costs of capital for utilities among developed countries.

This affects the choice of investment, biasing it to the short term, and the price consumers and industry must pay.

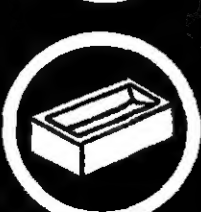
The trouble with the reform agenda is that it needs a legislative slot, and that probably depends upon John Prescott, Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, putting his weight behind a utilities Bill — and bringing in water and the railways. On the telecoms front, widening the domain is also complex, since broadcasting is covered by its own laws.

To take the bold path, however, Mrs Beckett has to decide what she wants. Difficult questions require answers bound to offend some interest-ed parties. Past dithering in this area by the Conservatives does not augur well, but waiting upon events may prove costly in the longer term.

The author is a Fellow of New College, Oxford, and Director of Oxford Economic Research Associates Limited

## Is it Art? Draw your own conclusions.

The Turner Prize Live See the winner announced as it happens



Tomorrow 9.00pm

### WORD WATCHES

Answers from page 30

#### ASHPLANT

(b) To flog with an ashplant, a sapling of the ash tree, used as a walking-stick, whip or goad. George Bernard Shaw, *Doctors' Dilemmas*, 1923: "Nothing will persuade me that any boy really likes being kicked and assaulted into doing the drudgery of a professional footballer."

#### EXODONTIA

(b) The extraction of teeth. An endodontist is, accordingly, a dentist. From the Greek for "out + tooth". 1927: "The development of skill in inducing anaesthesia has made it possible to perform the oftentimes intricate phases of endodontia in such a manner as to grant the patient freedom from the sensation of pain."

#### GONGORA

(a) A plant or flower of the genus of tropical American orchids so named. An epitaph from Don Antonio Caballero y Góngora (flourished 1782), Viceroy of New Granada. "The gongoras have a quaintness that is attractive, but the species are of little value except as curiosities."

#### COMITADJI

(b) In the Balkans, a member of a band of (especially Bulgarian) irregular soldiers or partisans. A common Balkan form adapted from the Turkish *kumitok*, French *comitadon* — a *çifti* a member of a committee. "A violent rivalry now began between various national bands of comitadjis, the most powerful being the famous Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization."

#### SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Nxd5! h4p3 2 Rhl+ Kgs 3 Rxb3+ Kf7 4 Rgl+ Kxb 5 Rb3+ mating

## Painting to order

Date with an Artist BBC2, 7.30pm

A series which might do something to demystify contemporary art challenges young British artists to produce new works for selected patrons. Enter, for the first such exercise, Cornelia Parker, no respecter of the orthodox and shortlisted for the Turner Prize. Her date is with Rebecca Stephens, better known as the first British woman to climb Everest than as a connoisseur of art. But this meeting of apparently different minds proves harmonious and leads the two women to the Whispering Gallery of St Paul's Cathedral, to the conservation of Parker, who has no head for heights. The resultant artworks are predictably unexpected. Tonight's other pairing is Andrew Gifford, a painter who specialises in landscapes of his native Fesside, and Dave Allan, PR manager of Middleborough Football Club.

Land of the Tiger BBC2, 8.30pm

There are no tigers in Valmik Thapar's latest quest for Indian wildlife but, as he leaves the mainland for the surrounding oceans, you would not expect any. There are plenty of competitors. The camerawork gleams even more brightly than usual as it brings us coral reefs and billboards of vividly coloured fish and a totally unexpected sequence of elephants swimming furiously underwater. Their day job is hauling timber and a dip in the sea is a perfect way of cooling off. Tuna fishing provides more spectacular footage as no fewer than 91 fish are landed in just over four minutes. The film saves its best until last and even if you have seen it before in wildlife programmes, the sight of thousands of baby turtles emerging from their eggs on a beach at night and rustling towards the sea is still one of nature's great events.

Panorama Channel 4, 8.30pm

The putting-on-a-pantomime series moves to the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton where the Christmas attraction is *Snow White*, with Lionel Blair, John Inman and Britt Ekland. Happily, for the production but unfortunately for the film, backstage spats are in short supply. Apart, that is,



Parker and Stephens (BBC2, 7.30pm)

from the matter of Ekland's costume. Surprisingly, perhaps, for somebody who has never been shy about such things before, she complains that it is too revealing. The crux of the debate, funny if it were not so earnest, is whether there should be a split up the side to show the Ekland legs. The old pros, Blair in his 1950s pants and Inman (incredibly) in his 1990s, have no such problems. They have been there before, know every pantomime routine ever invented and have absolutely no problem with dressing up in silly clothes.

Equinox Mindreaders Channel 4, 9.00pm

Autism Awareness Week is the cue for a searching look at a condition which causes its victims to live in an alien world able to engage with bodies but not with minds. Happily, autism need not be a barrier to a successful life. Temple Grandin is America's most famous autistic and typical in having few friends and no romantic attachments and being able to empathise more easily with books than people. This has not stopped her becoming a university professor in animal sciences, with a reputation for designing humane abattoirs and stockyards. The programme also reveals that autism in a mild and often unrecognised form may help to explain unusual behaviour in apparently normal people. What nobody seems to know is why autism is ten times more common in boys than girls. Peter Waymark

### RADIO CHOICE

Monday Play: The Trick is to Keep Breathing Radio 4, 7.45pm

The publicly describes this play as "An extraordinary account of one woman's descent into mental breakdown" and the description is no more than the truth. Certainly the story is out of the ordinary. It centres on a teacher, Joy, who is wrenched out of its groove and sent into freefall by bereavement. Then there is the manner of the story's telling, which uses three actresses for the part of Joy, a device which has the most tremendous dramatic effect as aspects of Joy's tortured recollection overlap each other. The play is based on a novel by Jane Casey. It is adapted for the stage by Michael Boyd who has also adapted it for radio. Siobhan Redmond, Jennifer Black and Eddi Reader play Joy.

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zeb 6.30am Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiteley, includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session 8.30 Live Music Update 8.40 Andy Kershaw 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Chris Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Pam Rhodes 3.00 Ed Sheeran 5.00 John Dunn 7.00 Hannah Lytle 8.00 Malcolm Lockwood with Big Band Era and Dance Band Days 9.00 Big Band Special 9.30 Hayes Over Britain 10.30 Richard Ainsworth 12.00am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nick Campbell 12.00 Midday with Mel 2.00pm Russco on Five 4.00 Nationwide with Julian Warler 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Sportsbeat, music and sporting memorabilia from 1971 8.00 The Monday Match Commentary on Bolton v Newcastle United from the Reebok Stadium 10.00 News Talk with Nick Robinson 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp 5.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jimmy Clark 7.00 Chris Evans 10.00 (FM) Robin Barrie (AM) Graham Dore 1.00pm (FM) Nick Abbot (AM) Nicky Horse 4.00 Russ 'n' Jono 7.00 (FM) Paul Coyne (AM) Colin Jones 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Rose and Carol McGiffin 9.00 Scott Christopherson 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dealey 7.00 Anna Rasmussen 9.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Mozart (Piano Sonata in F); Nielsen (Hellas Overture); Rossini (Overture The Silken Ladder); Telemann (Concerto in D for Three Trumpets); 9.00 Michael Kennedy. Includes Haydn (Symphony No 1 in D); Schubert (String Quartet in A minor); Fauré (L'Histoire Chinoise); Strauss (Wechsel, Der Rosenkavalier, Act 1 and 2); Mendelssohn (String Quartet No 2 in A minor); Purcell (Rites of Spring, Ode to St Cecilia's Day); Chopin (Prelude in E flat major, Opus 28 No 3); 12.00 Composer of the Week: Cole Porter, with Paul Gilroy. See Choice 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert, Live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Barry Douglas, piano; Michael Collins, clarinet; Timothy Lines, clarinet; Michael Harris, bass clarinet; David Allerman, viola; Lesley Ann Hughes, cello; Paul Watkins, cello; under Lionel Friend, Zimnitsky (Clarinet Trio); Schoenberg (Suite) 2.00 The BBC Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Martyn Brabbins with Lydia Russell, soprano; Moeran (Sinfonietta); Britten (Les Illuminations); Mahler (Symphony No 4) 4.00 Includes Michael Kennedy. Includes a public debate from West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge, on the future of opera and music theatre. With guest panelists Keith Cooper, or

Composer of the Week: Cole Porter Radio 3, Midday

Only those with short memories will think that the choice of Porter as *Composer of the Week* reflects a plunge down market at Radio 3: the network has not, at least in most recent times, been afraid to take the best popular music. Paul Guirey takes charge, all week, of this voyage through the best of Porter, a by no means typical American composer who came from a wealthy background and studied at the Harvard Law School before deciding on a career in music, in pursuit of which he studied in Paris. During the 1920s he made several attempts to write for Broadway shows but was rejected and it was not until the next decade that the breakthrough came when he wrote the wistfully upbeat *Anything Goes*. Peter Barnard

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 On the Spot: The Grass is Singing 7.30 The Vintage Chart Show 8.00 News 8.10 Pulse for Thought 8.15 Youth Debate 8.30 News; News in German (8.40 only) 8.45 World Business Report 9.15 Founders of Faith 9.30 Westway Across the Sports Roundup 10.00 Newsday 10.30 Omnibus 11.00 Newsday 11.30 Jazzambaz 12.00 News 12.05pm World Business Roundup 1.00 Newsday 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Options 3.00 World News; (8.40 only) News in German 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 Westway Across 3.30 The Ed Stewart Show 4.00 News 4.15 Seven Days 4.30 The World Today; (8.40 only) News in German 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Just a Minute; News in German (8.40 only) 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pulse for Thought 7.30 Multitask Hit List 8.00 Newsday 8.05 News 8.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Northern Lights 10.00 Newsday 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 Multitask Hit List 12.00 Newsday 12.30pm Westway 1.00 Britain Today 1.05 Newsday 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Pulse for Thought 2.00 Newsday 2.30 On Screen 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 What Do Christians Believe? 4.00 Newsday 4.30 Europe Today 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey with the Morning March and Breakfast Baroque 8.00 Henry Kelly with The Classic Mairimplace and Record of the Week 1.00pm Listener Request Hour with Jane Jones 2.00pm Concerto. Chopin (Piano Concerto No 2 in F minor) 3.00pm Classic. Includes: The Three Steps to Seven 5.30pm Newsday 6.00 Smooth Classics. A new series presented by John Bunting 8.00pm Evening Concerto, Darius (A Mass of Life). With Joan Rodgers, soprano; Nigel Robinson, tenor; Peter Coleman-Wright, bass; the Wayfaring Singers, the mouth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus under Richard Hickox 10.00pm Michael McCreary. Includes at 11.30pm Nocturne 2.00am Concerto (f) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

RADIO 4

6.00am On Air, with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Mozart (Piano Sonata in F); Nielsen (Hellas Overture); Rossini (Overture The Silken Ladder); Telemann (Concerto in D for Three Trumpets); 9.00 Michael Kennedy. Includes Haydn (Symphony No 1 in D); Schubert (String Quartet in A minor); Fauré (L'Histoire Chinoise); Strauss (Wechsel, Der Rosenkavalier, Act 1 and 2); Mendelssohn (String Quartet No 2 in A minor); Purcell (Rites of Spring, Ode to St Cecilia's Day); Chopin (Prelude in E flat major, Opus 28 No 3); 12.00 Composer of the Week: Cole Porter, with Paul Gilroy. See Choice 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert, Live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Barry Douglas, piano; Michael Collins, clarinet; Timothy Lines, clarinet; Michael Harris, bass clarinet; David Allerman, viola; Lesley Ann Hughes, cello; Paul Watkins, cello; under Lionel Friend, Zimnitsky (Clarinet Trio); Schoenberg (Suite) 2.00 The BBC Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Martyn Brabbins with Lydia Russell, soprano; Moeran (Sinfonietta); Britten (Les Illuminations); Mahler (Symphony No 4) 4.00 Includes Michael Kennedy. Includes a public debate from West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge, on the future of opera and music theatre. With guest panelists Keith Cooper, or

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, includes Thought for the Day 6.45 Perhaps, Future Minister. How James at George Bridges reflect on the last three years of the Conservative government 6.55 Weather 7.00 News 7.05 The Week, with the Times columnist Melvyn Bragg 10.00 (LW) News; Daily Service 10.00 (FM) News; Dear Diary. The actor Chris Harris records the preparations for his one-man show Vietnam in aid of the country's street children (9.45) 10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler 10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced by Janet Murray 11.30 Morning Buzz Live. Personal advice news presented by Vincent Duggdale 12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Nick Whitfield 12.25pm Wildlife. Lionel Kellaway presents the sixth regional heat of the wildlife quiz 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nicky Carr 1.20 The Archers (f) 1.35 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News; Hard in Glee. The first part of Stephen McKenna's play set in 1920s Stirling. With Paul Young and Mary-Jane (f) 3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor 4.00 News; 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Lynne Walker says Peter Brook's production of Samuel Beckett's play *Chlorine* has been a success and finds out what's going on in parliament this Christmas 4.45 Showbiz: Blaise from the Past, by David T.K. Wong, read by Den Meisel

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 94.0-96.0. RADIO 5, FM 95.0-97.0. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648, LW 108, 112, 117, 121.5, TALK RADIO, FM 105.8, MW 1053, 1055, 1057, 1059, 1061, 1063, 1065, 1067, 1069, 1071, 1073, 1075, 1077, 1079, 1081, 1083, 1085, 1087, 1089, 1091, 1093, 1095, 1097, 1099, 1101, 1103, 1105, 1107, 1109, 1111, 1113, 1115, 1117, 1119, 1121, 1123, 1125, 1127, 1129, 1131, 1133, 1135, 1137, 1139, 1141, 1143, 1145, 1147, 1149, 1151, 1153, 1155, 1157, 1159, 1161, 1163, 1165, 1167, 1169, 1171, 1173, 1175, 1177, 1179, 1181, 1183, 1185, 1187, 1189, 1191, 1193, 1195, 1197, 1199, 1201, 1203, 1205, 1207, 1209, 1211, 1213, 1215, 1217, 1219, 1221, 1223, 1225, 1227, 1229, 1231, 1233, 1235, 1237, 1239, 1241, 1243, 1245, 1247, 1249, 1251, 1253, 1255, 1257, 1259, 1261, 1263, 1265, 1267, 1269, 1271, 1273, 1275, 1277, 1279, 1281, 1283, 1285, 1287, 1289, 1291, 1293, 1295, 1297, 1299, 1301, 1303, 1305, 1307, 1309, 1311, 1313, 1315, 1317, 1319, 1321, 1323, 1325, 1327, 1329, 1331, 1333, 1335, 1337, 1339, 1341, 1343, 1345, 1347, 1349, 1351, 1353, 1355, 1357, 1359, 1361, 1363, 1365, 1367, 1369, 1371, 1373, 1375, 1377, 1379, 1381, 1383, 1385, 1387, 1389, 1391, 1393, 1395, 1397, 1399, 1401, 1403, 1405, 1407, 1409, 1411, 1413, 1415, 1417, 1419, 1421, 1423, 1425, 1427, 1429, 1431, 1433, 1435, 1437, 1439, 1441, 1443, 1445, 1447, 1449, 1451, 1453, 1455, 1457, 1459, 1461, 1463, 1465, 1467, 1469, 1471, 1473, 1475, 1477, 1479, 1481, 1483, 1485, 1487, 1489, 1491, 1493, 1495, 1497, 1499, 1501, 1503, 1505, 1507, 1509, 1511, 1513, 1515, 1517, 1519, 1521, 1523, 1525, 1527, 1529, 1531, 1533, 1535, 1537, 1539, 1541, 1543, 1545, 1547, 1549, 1551, 1553, 1555, 1557, 1559, 1561, 1563, 1565, 1567, 1569, 1571, 1573, 1575, 1577, 1579, 1581, 1583, 1585, 1587, 1589, 1591, 1593, 1595, 1597, 1599, 1601, 1603, 1605, 1607, 1609, 1611, 1613, 1615, 1617, 1619, 1621, 1623, 1625, 1627, 1629, 1631, 1633, 1635, 1637, 1639, 1641, 1643, 1645, 1647, 1649, 1651, 1653, 1655, 1657, 1659, 1661, 1663, 1665, 1667, 1669, 1671, 1673, 1675, 1677, 1679, 1681, 1683, 1685, 1687, 1689, 1691, 1693, 1695, 1697, 1699, 1701, 1703, 1705, 1707, 1709, 1711, 1713, 1715, 1717, 1719, 1721, 1723, 1725, 1727, 1729, 1731, 1733, 1735, 1737, 1739, 1741, 1743, 1745, 1747, 1749, 1751, 1753, 1755, 1757, 1759, 1761, 1763, 1765, 1767, 1769, 1771, 1773, 1775, 1777, 1779, 1781, 1783, 1785, 1787, 1789, 1791, 1793, 1795, 1797, 1799, 1801, 1803, 1805, 1807, 1809, 1811, 1813, 1815, 1817, 1819, 1821, 1823, 1825, 1827, 1829, 1831, 1833, 1835, 1837, 1839, 1841, 1843, 1845, 1847, 1849, 1851, 1853, 1855, 1857, 1859, 1861,







